

Thomas Fox

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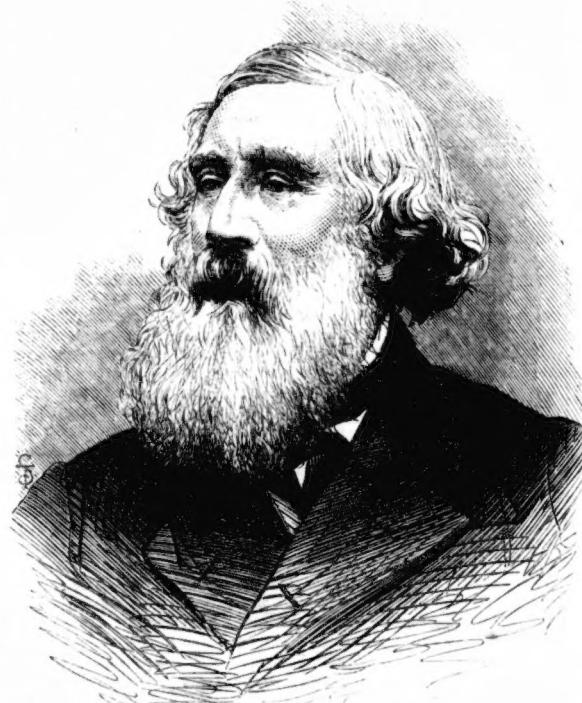
LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1865.

PRICE [WITH LARGE PLATE] 3D.—STAMPED, 4D.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

LORD AMBERLEY'S flirtation with the Leeds Liberals is almost an old story by this time. After much hesitation, he has at last promised to espouse the cause of the six-pounder; and, if he does not keep to his agreement, his future constituents will be able to proceed against him for breach of promise. He tried all he could to gain the affections and confidence of the borough without speaking the fatal word; but no shilly-shallying was permitted, at least not beyond a certain point. He was called upon to prove that his intentions were honourable under pain of immediate and final rejection, and, thus summoned, made a formal offer according to the terms prescribed. It is a pity he did not speak his mind out plainly from the beginning. But it must be difficult for men like Lord Amberley and Captain Grosvenor, who owe everything in life to their aristocratic position, to accept with good grace democratic ideas.

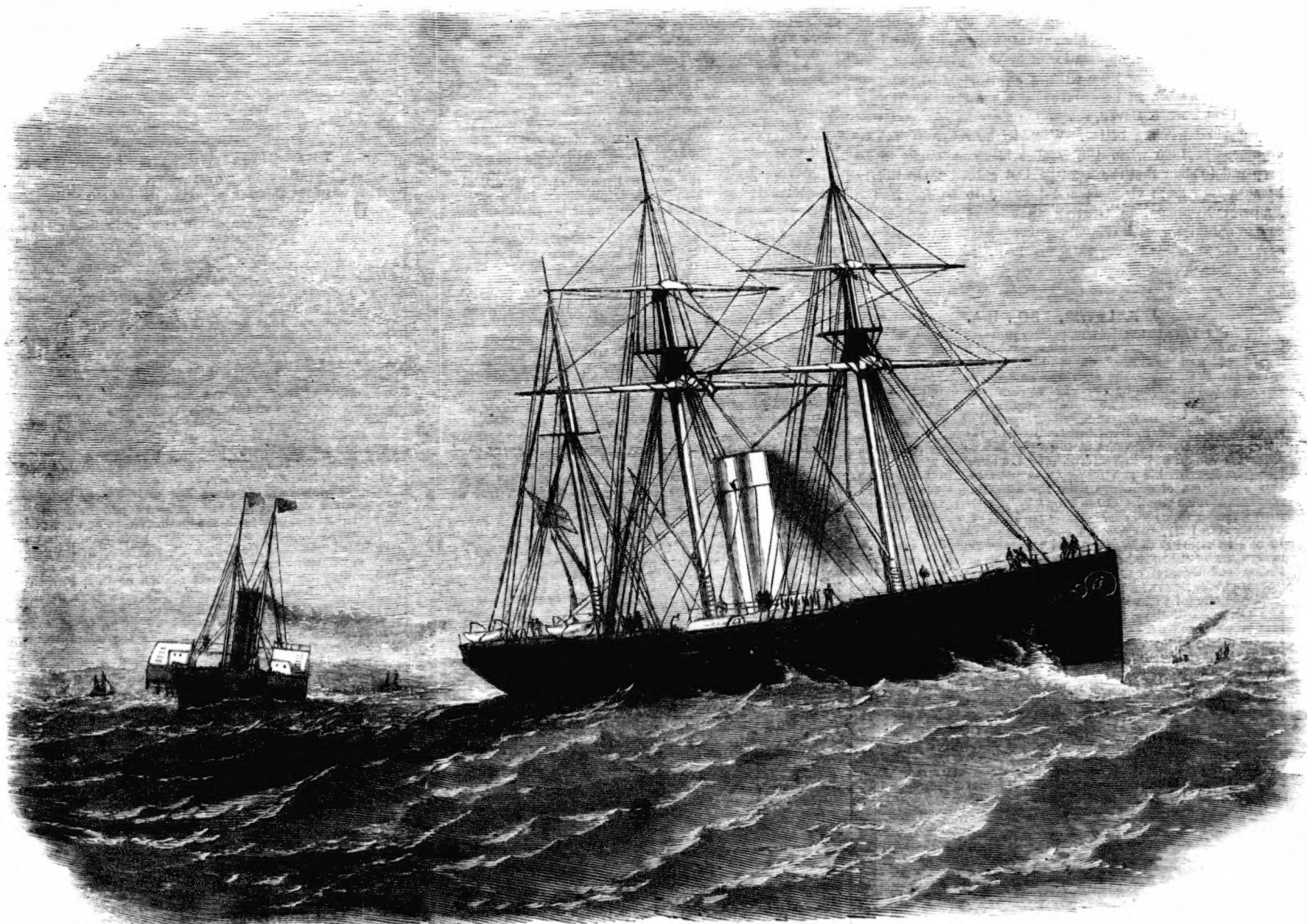
The Polish debate, on the night of the 17th, was marked by no new feature except that it is now proposed to bring Russia to terms by discontinuing the payment of £75,000 per annum which she is entitled to receive from England until the year 1915, and which she has received regularly since 1815 in consideration of her general assent to the territorial distribution of Europe under the Treaty of Vienna. Russia had accepted the frontier in Poland so persistently pressed upon her by Lord Castlereagh, and had joined England in guaranteeing the unity and independence of the new Dutch monarchy. It is now assumed that the annuity is paid to Russia in consideration of her having promised to grant the Poles of the kingdom of Poland a constitutional form of government.



JOHN FREDERICK LEWIS, ESQ., R.A.

Nothing can be more untrue. It was only upon the territorial question that Russia was pressed by England; and the English Government renewed its engagement to pay the £75,000 a year when, after the Belgian insurrection of 1830, the Dutch monarchy of 1815 was broken up. The Polish insurrection against the government of Nicholas had then taken place, and it was not pretended at the time that the payment of the interest on the Russo-Dutch loan had anything to do with the political position of the Poles. Some day, perhaps, England may find herself at war with Russia on the question of Poland. But, for the present, we must pay our debts whether Russia oppresses the Poles or not.

A broad, the great event of the last few days has been the attempt of the French police to arrest the author of a brochure entitled "Labienus," which is at once a burlesque of the "History of Julius Caesar" and a satire, and something more than a satire, on Julius Caesar's Imperial historian. Some of our contemporaries make a great deal of the fact that this savage lampoon has not been allowed to circulate freely in Paris. Let us remember, however, that neither in Russia, Austria, nor Prussia would such a work have been allowed to appear. Despotic Governments, whether veiled or not by Constitutional forms, are much the same all over Europe; and if we discuss French affairs at all we ought not to forget that France is ruled by a despotism. Fancy the irresponsible master of thirty legions tolerating such a passage as this:—"Criticism against Octavius; what folly! He published no criticisms against Cicero; he killed him. What can the memoirs of Octavius be but the theory of usurpation written by a usurper? The author knows how



TWIN SCREWS VERSUS PADDLE-WHEELS: RACE BETWEEN THE MARY AUGUSTA AND LA FRANCE.

to pillage a city, to rob Jupiter, to make false keys, to corrupt the electors, to proscribe *en masse*, and so on. This, indeed, is not criticism at all, and has nothing whatever to do with the Emperor's "History of Julius Caesar" regarded as a literary work.

In the meanwhile the "History of Julius Caesar" has been criticised in the French press with more freedom than could have been anticipated; and, whatever may be the truth as to the formal "permission" said to have been granted to French journalists to "use the greatest possible latitude" in speaking of the work, we believe, for our part, that the Emperor of the French is too much a man of the world to bring out a book in half a dozen languages and then say that in France alone—where, above all, he wishes it to be admired—its merits shall not be thoroughly discussed. We fancy, also, that the chief writers of France have too much good taste not to treat the Emperor with the courtesy due to a man in his elevated position, whose regard for literature is proved by his own evident desire to achieve a literary reputation. The mere wish of the despotic Sovereign of France to gain the good opinion of the educated classes, whose views are so little consulted in the general government of the country, is, to some extent, a concession to them; and thus some of the most advanced Liberals on the French press, in attacking the Emperor's opinions, at the same time applaud him for submitting them to general examination. The Emperor is no longer a despot when he merely defends despotism in a work to which anyone who likes may write a reply. As an author he reasons; whereas, as a sovereign, he does not reason, but thinks it sufficient to will.

In England the Emperor's theory of Imperialism has found few defenders, even among the persistent admirers of Mr. Carlyle's theory of hero-worship. For hero-worship, however, it may be argued that it is necessary, first of all, to catch your hero; and it may be said, even by those who accept the heroic qualities of Frederick the Great, that Julius Caesar was not a hero at all. In any case, the generality of Englishmen are not by any means prepared to accept the Emperor Napoleon's doctrine as to the sacred character of "accomplished facts"—a doctrine, by-the-way, which the Emperor himself rejects when the "accomplished facts" do not quite suit his ready-made theory. The facts were against Cesar when Cesar was slain, and against Cæsarism when the Roman Empire became corrupt and fell into decay. So they were against Napoleon I, when Napoleon I was burned out of Moscow; and again, when, after his second defeat, he was sent to St. Helena. What, too, could a fatalist historian have made of the destiny of Napoleonism when Prince Louis Napoleon, after his ludicrous failure at Boulogne, was imprisoned at Ham? What would he make of it if the Emperor should die before the Imperial Prince is old enough to govern in his place, and a fresh set of political troubles should cause the return of another dynasty?

In dealing with modern events, the fatalist historian can only justify the ways of Providence up to the moment of going to press. His book may no sooner be out than a change in the affairs of Europe will spoil the application of his theory on one or more points. He may have been writing about Italy in the year 1858, and proving, in accordance with his doctrine, that, if the Italians were enslaved, it was their own fault, and that they merited nothing better. What is the value of such an argument in 1860, when the fatalist historian ought to be prepared to show that the Italians had gained their liberty because they were virtuous and deserved to be free? The Emperor Napoleon, in treating an ancient subject, is, of course, safe from such dangers as these; but facts may yet occur to render his theory valueless in its application to the second French empire.

J. F. LEWIS, ESQ., R.A.

MR. JOHN FREDERICK LEWIS, painter in water colours, who has just been elected a Royal Academician, was born in London, according to "Men of the Time," on the 14th of July, 1805. He is the son of Mr. F. C. Lewis, the engraver and landscape-painter. He first attracted attention by a series of studies from animals in water colours and in oils, which he himself engraved. He next devoted himself to foreign travel, and to portraying "the comparatively animal life" of the semi-civilised nations of the South and East. Prolonged and repeated visits were paid by him to Italy and Spain. After his second visit to Spain, in 1833-4, a selection of his drawings from Spanish life and scenery was published in lithograph; also a selection of drawings from the Alhambra, made during a residence of some months within its walls. Thirteen years' absence from England followed, commencing in 1837, of which two years were spent in Italy, the remainder in Greece, Turkey, and Egypt. In 1851 he returned to England, and the following year exhibited his picture of "The Bhareem," succeeded by other drawings of Italian and Oriental subjects—"Roman Peasants at a Shrine," "Scenes in the Desert," &c. During his Continental visits, Mr. Lewis employed himself in studying, not only the people and scenery, but also the works of the great masters. In 1853 his sixty-four drawings in water colours, copies from some of the most famous examples, chiefly of the Venetian and Spanish schools, were purchased by the Scottish Academy as the commencement of a gallery of copies from the chefs-d'œuvre of the old masters. Mr. Lewis has more recently devoted himself to painting in oil colours. At the Academy he exhibited, in 1855, a small oil picture of his "Armenian Lady, Cairo." In 1856 he exhibited, in the Water-Colour Society's rooms (having been made president of that society the previous year, 1855, on the death of Copley Fielding) his pictures of "A Frank Encampment," and "Desert of Mount Sinai." Mr. Lewis retained his office of president till 1858, when he resigned it; and in July, 1859, was elected to the minor honours of the Royal Academy, which he has now exchanged for the full degree of R.A.

THE gale which visited us on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday last proved very destructive at various points. As usual, the Tyne and the harbours on that part of the north coast have had their full proportion of wrecks and loss of life. So high up the River Thames as Blackwall some laden coal-barges, to the number of about sixty, which were anchored in the river waiting to be taken to various wharves above bridge, laboured much, and finally went down at their moorings. Fortunately, there was no loss of life.

TWIN SCREWS VERSUS PADDLE-WHEELS.

ANOTHER success has been achieved by the twin screw-propeller system in an interesting race from Dover to Calais between the new screw steam-ship *Mary Augusta*, of 970 tons and 280-horse power, built by Messrs. Dudgeon, and the new paddle-wheel mail-steamer *La France*, the latest addition to the fleet of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Company, and said to be the fastest boat under steam in the English Channel. The *Mary Augusta* had left Greenhithe at an early hour in the morning, and at 7.30 a.m. dropped her anchor in Dover Roads to await the time of departure of the next mail-boat for Calais on the arrival on Dover pier of the express-train from London due at 9.23 a.m. The train arrived on the pier with its usual punctuality in point of time, and very soon afterwards the mail-steamer cast off from the Admiralty Pier and stood out clear to view from where the *Mary Augusta* was lying, and was then discovered to be the famous *La France*, she being, when time was taken, about three cables' length ahead of and on the weather bow of the *Mary Augusta*, the water being smooth, comparatively speaking, in the Channel, and the wind quite moderate from E.N.E.

The two vessels for the first five minutes after starting together from off the end of Dover pier-head seemed to be pretty equal in point of speed; and some of those on board the *Mary Augusta* began to think their vessel would make a sufficient fight if it could be made to "hold her own" with her rival; but her builders, who were on board, thought otherwise, and stated they felt convinced the twin screws must win the race. The result proved the soundness of this opinion, for there ensued, without any doubt, the most exciting and interesting contest that has ever yet occurred since steam was first applied to the propulsion of ships. At 9.53 both vessels began to open the South Foreland to the breeze, being at the time exactly abreast of each other and close together, with the paddle to windward, the twin screws appearing to slightly draw on *La France*; but a hot bearing developing itself in the starboard engine of the *Mary Augusta*, it was eased in its revolutions as much as durst be done under the circumstances of the ship's position with her handsome and dangerous rival, and her chance of success thus far damaged. At ten a.m. *La France*'s stem was fairly in a line with the *Mary Augusta*'s stern, despite the hot bearing and reduced revolutions in the latter's starboard engine.

In ten minutes afterwards the *Mary Augusta* placed herself in position about three cables' length ahead of and in line with *La France*, and very shortly afterwards the latter was four cables' length astern, and on her leader's port quarter, emitting such immense volumes of steam and smoke from her two funnels as satisfactorily proved that the engines were having more steam than they could make use of, and that *La France* could never at any time or under any circumstances during her yet short career have been driven with more purpose to win than at the present. The *Mary Augusta*, in addition to her loss of speed, owing to the decreased number of the revolutions of one of her engines, which persistently continued to be afflicted with the unfortunate hot bearing, steered at times rather wild from the uneven running of her engines, and this necessarily lengthened her course. The *Mary Augusta*, however, still, as the cliffs of England lessened and those of France rose on the horizon, gradually and surely increased her lead over the gallant *La France*, and at 10.45, the heated bearing of the starboard engine having become cooled, its revolutions were increased, and from that moment the race was her own, *La France* visibly dropping astern every stroke her pistons made, and the *Mary Augusta* closing in with Calais pier at a tremendous rate of speed. At 11h. 4m. 45s. the latter was close in to the pier's head, when, as there was no intention to take the vessel inside Calais harbour, her helm was put down and her head brought round for Dover cliffs again, *La France* being then fully three miles and a half astern, six minutes elapsing from the time of putting down the helm of the *Mary Augusta* until she met *La France*, both vessels continuing at full speed throughout, the one finishing her voyage to Calais from Dover, and the other returning across the Channel to the coast of England from that of France.

The time occupied by the *Mary Augusta* in the double run from Dover to Calais and back was exactly two hours forty-five minutes and ten seconds—a rate of speed never equalled before, under any circumstances, by a screw-steamer, double or single. On arriving off Calais pier-heads the owners of the latter ship, satisfied with their success, dipped their ship's colours on parting, which was courteously returned by *La France*. The run back to Dover from Calais was made by the double screw with help from her fore and aft sails forward, but the wind by that time had freshened considerably, and a tolerable sea was running in mid-channel and wherever the influence of the tide was fully felt to windward. An opportunity was thus afforded of noticing the meeting of the vessel's bow and the sea as she passed through the water. There was no wave hanging on in front of the stem; all that could be seen of entering force and its resistance being merely a "fountain spray" of water—white from its small volume and the ship's great speed through the sea—with no other visible disturbance in the waters through which lay the ship's course. In the return of the *Mary Augusta* from her sea trial-trip to Gravesend the South Foreland was passed at twenty minutes past four p.m., a heavy gale blowing from N.E., which continued, the vessel behaving beautifully. The North Foreland was passed at twenty minutes past five, and the Tongue lightship at 6.15, Gravesend being reached at 9.15 p.m. The success of the *Mary Augusta* not only proves the superiority of the double or twin-screw principle over the principle of the single screw application in point of speed (the superiority in steering and manoeuvring power is sufficiently admitted), but it also proves its superiority over the latest and best applied paddle-wheel system—*La France* being not more than one half the weight of the *Mary Augusta*, the propelling powers in both ships being about the same; and the actual results obtained being therefore so much in favour of the double screw, the conclusion must be accepted that two well submerged propellers, one on each quarter of a vessel, and thus cutting their way solidly into the water, must be far superior to either the best single-screw arrangement or that of the paddle-wheels. As the twin screw thus gives speed superior to every other form of a ship's propulsion through the water, and also gives her a power of revolving on even her own centre—a power that cannot be attained by any other arrangement—Sir John Hay and Mr. Stansfeld may both find their ideas, as expressed by them in the House of Commons the other evening, perfected with regard to a war-ship's speed and form, as in the completion of the small gun-boats *Vixen* and *Viper*, building now for the Admiralty by Messrs. Dudgeon; and in the more powerful twin screw-vessel promised to be built by Lord Clarence Paget at her Majesty's dockyard at Pembroke.

FIREPROOFING.—Mr. Dawson delivered a lecture at the Philharmonic Hall, Islington, on Saturday last, on the means of rendering various materials fire, or rather blaze, proof. The lecturer showed by experiments that wood, hay, muslin fabrics, and other substances of a highly inflammable nature could be rendered perfectly incapable of bursting into flame; and it followed, of course, that if such substances become ignited, the fire could easily be extinguished before serious mischief was done. The most conclusive experiment was made upon a muslin dress worn by a young lady, and, though fire was applied at various points, only a slight charring was the result. The process described is the invention of Mr. Alfred Silvester, and, if useful in no other way, would be invaluable as a preventive of accidents to ladies from their crinoline causing their dresses to take fire.

REDUCTIONS OF POSTAGE ON INLAND LETTERS.—On and after the 1st of April next, the postage upon letters transmitted by post between places within the United Kingdom, instead of being 2d. for every additional ounce above the first ounce, will be at the uniform rate throughout of 1d. for every half-ounce. The rates of postage will then be as follow, viz.:—Upon a letter not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. in weight, 1d.; above $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and not exceeding 1 oz., 2d.; above 1 oz. and not exceeding $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz., 3d.; above $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and not exceeding 2 oz., 4d.; above 2 oz. and not exceeding $2\frac{1}{2}$ oz., 5d.; above $2\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and not exceeding 3 oz., 6d.; and so on, the postage advancing at the rate of 1d. for every half-ounce or fraction of a half-ounce. Thus, a letter above 1 oz., but not exceeding $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz., which has hitherto been charged 4d., will, after the 31st inst., be charged 3d. only. As heretofore, if no postage be paid in advance, double rates will be charged; and if the postage be insufficient, double the insufficiency will be charged.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The deputation from the French Senate, on Monday, presented to the Emperor the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. The Emperor expressed his satisfaction that the acts of his Government were assented to and appreciated by the first body of the State, whose almost unanimous vote on the Address again showed the perfect union that existed between the Government and the deliberative assemblies.

News from Algiers announces that disturbances which broke out in November last in the district of Babor are on the increase, and some houses have been burnt by the malcontents. The snow will not yet allow the troops to penetrate to this mountainous district. The authorities have taken measures to prevent the Kabyles from coming down into the plain.

In Paris the belief is very strong and general, in spite of the denial of one or two of the official organs, that a portion of the French troops is about to return from Rome. Amongst the clerical circles it is considered certain that the Pope will seek refuge somewhere out of Rome as soon as it is definitely known that he is to be left to the loving care of his own subjects. His Holiness, it is understood, will not wait till his guardian bayonets have deserted him, but prudently purposes to leave the city before their departure.

SPAIN.

The army is to be reduced by 10,000 men, and the reduction in the budget of expenditure thus effected will amount to sixty million reals.

ITALY.

King Victor Emmanuel arrived in Turin on Monday, and was received by the Ministry. A telegram from the same city announces that brigandage has fallen off so much in the southern provinces of the kingdom that it has been found convenient to suppress the military department of Benevento.

PRUSSIA.

The Minister of War of Prussia does not profess to have much faith in the pacific intentions of the Emperor of the French. In the discussion on the military budget in the Chamber of Deputies on Tuesday he urged the necessity of placing Prussia in a position to repel any hostile attack by declaring that while he did not believe it was the intention of Napoleon to declare war against Prussia at an early period, yet he would do so as soon as his interests demanded such a course.

RUSSIA.

The Russian Government has instituted legal proceedings against the members of the Assembly of Nobles in Pskoff who joined in the address to the Emperor asking for a national representation for the country. The two editors of the newspapers which published the address of the Moscow nobles, and Count Orloff Davydorff, have been sentenced to two months' imprisonment.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

During the last few days great inundations have taken place in and around Bucharest. One third of the town itself is under water, which in some places is more than 5 ft. deep. The rivers have overflowed their banks, sweeping away the bridges and destroying the roads. Galatz, Jassy, and other towns have also suffered severely.

SOUTH AMERICA.

According to accounts from Peru, dated Feb. 13, the Chincha Islands have been restored by the Spaniards to the Peruvian authorities, and the terms agreed upon between the two Governments for the settlement of their differences have been carried into effect. On the 5th of February there were serious riots at Lima and at Callao. The boats of the Spanish ships of war were pelted with stones, and one seaman on shore was murdered. The Spanish officers who were in Lima were obliged to take refuge in the French Legation, and to remain there till the following night, when a special train, to which they were escorted by a troop of cavalry, brought them down to Callao, where they were embarked in the Peruvian men-of-war boats and taken off to their ships.

Intelligence dated Montevideo, Feb. 7, announces that the garrison of that town had agreed to capitulate to the Brazilian Admiral, who would therefore occupy the place without bloodshed.

BRITISH AMERICA.

The Canadian Parliament has adopted the confederation scheme by 91 against 33 votes. The scheme, however, has received a check in New Brunswick, where the confederation candidates have been defeated. The Government has, nevertheless, announced its intention of forwarding the measure by all the means in its power.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

WAR NEWS.

The news from Sherman up to the date of our advices from New York, the 11th inst., were extremely vague and contradictory. Nothing was really known of his movements, and all that can be done is to take the fragments of intelligence published for what they are worth.

Reports from Charleston to the 7th announce Sherman's arrival at Charlotte. Beauregard was hovering round his front. Refugees from Newbern report that Sherman occupied Fayetteville, and was within forty miles of Raleigh. General Thomas had telegraphed to the Government that scouts had arrived with information of Sherman having intercepted and crushed Cheatham's corps, which was moving from Alabama to reinforce Hardee. Hardee was not up in time, and did not give battle. Johnston was supposed to have attacked Sherman in front, but was said to have been defeated. The locality of the battle was not given. It was reported to be probably in the north of South Carolina. Scouts arrived at Wilmington announced Sherman's occupation of Cheraw. Up to that time nothing but skirmishing had occurred. A cavalry engagement was said to have been fought at Cheraw, Hampton defeating Kilpatrick. The battle at Tadkin River was merely an engagement with Sherman's outposts.

The Federals from Newbern had arrived near Kingston. The Confederates were reported to have abandoned the country between the Newbern and Goldsborough, evacuating Kingston on the 3rd. The Confederates were said to have fallen back from their position on the Wilmington and Goldsborough Railroad, fifteen miles northeast of Wilmington. General Terry was thirteen miles from Wilmington, on the north-west branch of Cape Fear River, confronted by Hoke. General Schofield had been repulsed in an attempt to communicate with Sherman.

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Admiral Dahlgren had captured Fort White, Georgetown, South Carolina, with fifteen guns. In making the attack the Admiral's flagship was sunk by a torpedo.

Mr. Stanton had announced on the 6th, which was the day appointed for the celebration of the recent Federal successes, that General Sherman had attacked General Early at Charlotteville, and that the latter, with his entire force, had surrendered to the Federal arms. Detailed accounts, however, state that Custer's division attacked and defeated Early's forces near Waynesborough, capturing eighty-seven officers (Early's staff), 1100 men, seven cannon, and one hundred wagons, and also a train of artillery stores prepared for transportation. General Early escaped. The Federal loss was ten men. General Sheridan occupied Waynesborough. Custer was last reported within ten miles of Charlotteville. Rosser attacked a detachment returning from Winchester, but was repulsed.

Prisoners report that a heavy Federal force was advancing from East Tennessee towards Lynchburg. Unconfirmed rumours report the capture of Lynchburg.

Lee was strongly fortifying his line on the Roanoke River, to secure the possible retreat of Johnston to Roanoke.

The Governor of North Carolina had announced that for a few months Lee's army must rely for subsistence upon Virginia and North Carolina alone.

GENERAL NEWS.

The Confederate Senate had passed the Negro Enlistment Bill. Grant was reported to have discovered coloured troops confronting his pickets, showing that the Confederates had adopted the policy of arming the slaves. A panic was said to have prevailed among the negroes since the announcement that they were to be conscripted into the Confederate army. The Confederate slaveowners were arming their slaves. The result of the conscription was that numbers of slaves were flocking to Sherman's army with the assistance of their masters, promising to return to work for wages as soon as safe.

The Confederate Congress had been considering resolutions which proposed to arm General Lee with power to treat for peace.

The recent victories were celebrated on the 6th, at New York, with great enthusiasm. A military parade, a procession of the trades, and a display of fireworks in the evening took place. An enormous concourse of citizens assembled in Union-square, where addresses were delivered. General Dix said that European sympathy was given to the South in order to weaken American power by a disruption of the Union.

President Lincoln had offered a pardon to all deserters returning to their posts within sixty days.

A man named Clements had been arrested in Washington for threatening to assassinate President Lincoln. He had been handed over to the civil authorities.

Mr. McCulloch, the Secretary of the Treasury, had announced that he will make an effort to resume early specie payments.

The American Consul at Matamoras had left, and arrived at New Orleans, the reason of his expulsion being the non-recognition of the French and Mexican authorities in Mexico by the United States.

Mr. Lincoln had been informed of England's approval of the recent Canadian legislation regarding Southern refugees. The Canadian passport order had been rescinded, and it had also been agreed not to increase the naval force on the lakes.

RE-INSTALLATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

We copy the following account of the re-installation of President Lincoln from the letter of the *Times* Special Correspondent, who was present on the occasion; and his account of Mr. Johnson's extraordinary conduct may, therefore, be taken as that of a trustworthy eye-witness:—

POPULAR FEELING IN WASHINGTON.

Four years ago, Abraham Lincoln, elected by a majority of the States, but by a minority of the American people, took the oath of office administered to him by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, an ardent pro-slavery politician and friend of the Southern cause. Washington was more than half rebellious, and it was at the risk of his life that the new President—whose personal character and ability were then little known or appreciated—ventured to show himself in public. Very different were the circumstances of his re-installation on the 4th inst. Though fully one third of the States took no part in his re-election, and considered him a foreigner and the bitter enemy of their liberty and independence, the other two thirds re-appointed him to office by a majority so triumphant as to prove that in spite of many errors, shortcomings, and failures he was their deliberate choice for the highest honour they could confer, and the only man who, in their judgment, was fit to carry to its close the fearful war of which his first election had been the signal. On this second occasion, Washington, which was crammed to overflowing with visitors from all parts of the country, instead of receiving Mr. Lincoln with distrust, or even with scant courtesy, was ardent in the expression of its joy. If he had an enemy in the capital none such dared to show himself. He drove, unprotected, through the streets in an open carriage, receiving at every pace the vociferous plaudits of the multitude; and when, at last, he arrived in the Senate Chamber and walked to the platform, where, in the presence of the people, the oath was to be administered, he took it from the lips of a Chief Justice of his own appointment, a man whose opinions on the great questions which agitate the country and underlie its mighty struggle for existence are identical with his own.

CONGRESS.—THE PROCESSIONS.

The night previous to the inauguration was cold and rainy. The Senate and the House of Representatives, both of which sat till daylight of the 4th to dispatch the vast arrears of business which they had suffered to accumulate, were startled at short intervals by sharp gusts of wind and hail which battered on the skylights, and which on one occasion, in the dim grey of the early dawn, suddenly burst with such fury as to suggest the idea of an explosion within the building. Many of the members rose affrighted from their seats and rushed towards the door. The deliberations were for a while suspended in the general alarm, until the Speaker, rising from his chair, begged the representatives to resume their places announcing that the noise was "only a storm." When day broke the rain was falling in torrents, and scarcely ceased until ten o'clock. At eleven o'clock, however, the storm began to moderate, and a streak of light in the far horizon gave promise of fair weather. The processions speedily began to form, including regiments of soldiers in their shabby blue uniforms—horse, foot, and artillery—white men as well as black—deputations of firemen from Baltimore, Philadelphia, and other cities, Masonic Lodges, Friendly Societies, all with bands of music and banners, amid which the "green flag of Erin" was next in conspicuously to the all-pervading stars and stripes. In spite of the mire and the weather, the streets swarmed with people. The women trailed their long garments through the slush as if silks were of no value, and the men tramped on heedlessly in long boots worn over their trousers through mud and filth of a consistency and depth which no European who did not know the contrary from his American experience could believe to be compatible with the government of a civilised city. It was remarked by everybody, strangers as well as natives, that there never had been seen such crowds of negroes in the streets of the capital. At least one half of the multitude were coloured people, pouring in from far and near to "assist" in the ceremonial of a day which to them and to many wiser people seemed the triumph of their race over a fast fading social prejudice and political injustice. The negroes, "dressed all in their best," flaunted in red, blue, yellow, and every variety of brilliant and gaudy colour, and looked as buoyantly happy as servant girls usually do when out for holiday. The negroes held their heads high, as if they thoroughly understood that, under the benevolent sway of Abraham Lincoln, "a man was a man for a' that;" if even he were not something better than a man—if his skin happened to be of the Ethiopian and not of the Caucasian colour.

THE SENATE-HOUSE.

By half-past eleven the spacious galleries of the Senate Chamber were crowded with ladies, as brilliant as a parterre of flowers at midsummer. The Senate was devoting its attention, during the last few minutes of the Session, which was legally to expire at noon, to the all-engrossing question of the negro. The negro was lord of the hour and the place, and the Senate was but his minister. The motion before the House was the passing of a bill to punish by fine of 500 dollars, and by imprisonment for any period not shorter than three months or longer than three years, any driver or conductor of any railroad car, or omnibus, or steam-ship, or public conveyance of any kind whatever, who should eject therefrom or refuse to admit therein any person on account of his or her colour. To this proposal some senator moved an addition, to the effect that the same penalties should apply to any hotel or innkeeper who should refuse accommodation in his house to any negro or negress, or mulatto, male or female, who applied for admission like other travellers. The Senate had not decided this question, nor had time to ask how any penal enactment could reach an hotel-keeper who, not liking negro company, should simply inform any negro or negress wishing to pay for his hospitality that his house was full, when the arrival of some distinguished persons drew all eyes to the gangway and put an end to all further discussion. Whether the bill had passed with or without the amendment, or whether it had dropped through altogether, no one could tell. The new comers were Mr. Hannibal Hamlin, Vice-President of the United States, and *ex officio*

President of the Senate; and Mr. Andrew Johnson, of Tennessee the Vice-President elect. The acting President, Mr. Andrew Foote, cordially shook hands with both gentlemen and vacated the chair, which Mr. Hamlin assumed, and beckoned Mr. Johnson to a seat beside him. There entered immediately afterwards Mr. Seward, Mr. Stanton, Mr. Welles, and other members of the Cabinet, who took their places on chairs reserved for them to the right of the presiding officer. Scarcely had they seated themselves, when the Justices of the Supreme Court, in their black silk gowns, preceded by Chief Justice Chase, looking every inch like a judge, entered and took their places on the left, and were closely followed by the Foreign Ministers, conspicuous among whom were M. de Rassloff, the Danish, and Baron Stoekl, the Russian, Ambassador, and a whole bevy of smaller magnates from other countries. Their brilliant uniforms were conspicuous amid the sombre costumes of the senators and Ministers, and lit up the place with a radiance agreeable enough to my European eyes, but which an irreverent New Englander, who stood next to me, assured me confidentially was "gimcrack" and "funkeyism," and a "kind of thing that did not suit a free country." It was remarked that England and France were represented on this occasion by attachés only, and that Mexico was not represented at all.

Mr. Hamlin rose as soon as the little flutter caused by these arrivals had subsided, and, in a short, unpretending, and effective speech, took his official farewell of the body over whose deliberations he had presided for the last four years, and concluded by introducing his successor, the Hon. Andrew Johnson, of Tennessee, Vice-President elect.

MR. VICE-PRESIDENT JOHNSON.

All eyes were turned to Mr. Johnson as he started, rather than rose, from his chair, and, with wild gesticulations and shrieks, strangely and weirdly intermingled with audible stage whispers, began to address the brilliant auditory around and above him. Mr. Johnson was once a journeyman tailor, and rose by industry and the possession of something like political genius to his present high position. In no free country—and least of all in America—would any right-minded man seek to cast a slur upon him on account of the humbleness of his origin. No one thinks the worse of Mr. Lincoln because in early life he was a rail-splitter and a boatman; but if, as President of the United States, he behaved like a rail-splitter, spoke like one, drank like one, thought like one, and could not import into the higher sphere of his new life anything but the vulgar manners and gross habits of the old, it would be impossible for anyone to forget his origin, or not to lament that circumstances had lifted him out of a sphere in which it would have been better if he had remained. It is not, therefore, because he was once a journeyman tailor that every witness of the exhibition which Mr. Johnson made of himself on the day that ought to have been the proudest of his life feels humiliated at the idea that such a person should have risen from the dregs of society to disgrace, not alone the dignity of his official position, but even the honest working classes from whom he sprang. His behaviour was that of an illiterate, vulgar, and drunken rowdy, and, could it have been displayed before any other Legislative Assembly in the world, would have led to his arrest by the sergeant-at-arms, if not to his ignominious expulsion by the deliberate vote of his insulted colleagues. He had not uttered two sentences when everybody saw that something was wrong. "He is drunk," said one. "He is crazy," said another. "This is disgraceful," said a third. Mr. Seward and the Ministers looked on the ground, or moved uneasily in their seats. The Judges of the Supreme Court manifested by their faces their pain and their surprise. Mr. Johnson was so proud of the dignity into which fate had thrust him that he boasted of it in the language of a clown and with the manners of a costermonger. "I am a-going for to tell you—here—to-day—yes, I am a-going for to tell you all that I am a plebeian. I glory in it. I am a plebeian. The people—yes, the people of the United States, the great people—have made me what I am; and I am a-going for to tell you here to-day—yes, to-day, in this place—that the people are everything. We owe all to them. If it be not too presumptuous, I will tell the foreign Ministers a-sittin' there that I am one of the people. I will say to senators and others before me, I will say to the Supreme Court which sits before me, that you all get your power and place from the people. And Mr. Chase," he said, suddenly addressing the surprised Chief Justice by name, "your position depends upon the people." Turning to the other side of the House, where sat Mr. Seward and the other Ministers, he severally addressed them as he had addressed Mr. Chase. "And I will say to you, Mr. Secretary Seward, and to you, Mr. Secretary Stanton, and to you, Mr. Secretary —." Here he hesitated for a name, and, according to the public report in the Washington papers of this morning, bent down and asked Mr. Hamlin if he knew who was Secretary of the Navy. Having been informed, he continued, in the same loud tone, "And to you, Mr. Secretary Welles, you all of you derive your power from the people." These words were uttered with strong emphasis upon the word "you," which Mr. Johnson invariably pronounced "yeo-o!" He pitched his voice as if he had been addressing a large multitude in the open air, and alternately whispered and roared in a manner that would have been ludicrous had it not been disgusting. He ended at last, to the relief of everybody, just as the members of the House of Representatives, whose session closed punctually at noon, came crowding into the Senate Chamber to witness the chief ceremonial of the day.

MR. LINCOLN.

Mr. Lincoln, escorted by Marshal Lamon, once his partner in the law business at Springfield, entered shortly afterwards, and took his seat below the Vice-President's chair, while the oath of office was administered to Mr. Johnson. Fortunately, the President heard no part of Mr. Johnson's speech, and was unaware of the sad exhibition which his subordinate had made. A few minutes were employed in reading Mr. Lincoln's proclamation for an extra session of the Senate, to commence that day at noon, for the consideration of important public business, and in tendering the oath to several new senators who had been elected within the previous three months, among whom was Mr. Fessenden, the late Secretary of the Treasury. It was then announced to the President *sotto voce* by the Marshal that the weather was clear, that the sun was shining brilliantly, and that all was ready for the ceremonial of the day on the platform erected on the steps of the Capitol. Mr. Lincoln rose; the Ministers, the Judges of the Supreme Court, and a large body of the senators followed. There was a general rush and scramble in all parts of the house, like the emptying of a theatre when the performances are over, but far more eager, inasmuch as every one strove who should be first to reach a good place to witness a new performance more interesting than the last. Every one was left to shift for himself; and the members of the Corps Diplomatique, with all their fine feathers and uniforms, sashes and ribbons, stars and crosses, fared no better than the common crowd, and were left to fight their way into or out of the mass, as best pleased them. Most of them were so displeased at the want of arrangement, or the want of courtesy, whichever it might have been, that they made no attempt to follow the President and consequently took no part in the great celebration of the day. Making my way out of the building as fast as possible to mingle with the crowd outside, I arrived just in time to hear Mr. Lincoln deliver the last words of his singular but pathetic address. The document was remarkably short, and did not occupy ten minutes in the reading. This done, a salute of 100 guns was fired in honour of the event, and Mr. Lincoln drove home again up Pennsylvania-avenue, preceded and followed by the same procession which accompanied him to the Capitol, bowing graciously and not ungracefully to his lieges on every side, and taking their homage as naturally and unostentatiously as if he were truly a king, and had been born to the purple.

MR. LINCOLN'S RECEPTION AND THE LOYAL LEAGUE BALL.

On Saturday evening (the 4th) Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln held a grand reception at the White House. No invitations were necessary. Everybody, white or black, civil or military, general or private soldier, man or woman, master or servant, was welcome; and the people, to the number (it is computed) of fully 20,000, took advan-

tage of the privilege to pour through the rooms of the presidential mansion, to gaze at Mrs. Lincoln and to shake hands with the Chief Magistrate. Mr. Lincoln bore the infliction with manly fortitude, and in numerous instances where he happened to be personally acquainted with his visitor, or to be specially introduced, inflicted so hearty a grip of welcome as to bring tears of pain rather than of gratitude into the eyes of the recipient. On Monday night (the 6th) there was a grand inauguration ball given under the auspices of the Loyal League, at which Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln and all the wealth and celebrity of Washington were present. With this event, the fashionable season at Washington, were brought to a close. With reference to this ball, it is only of interest to state that no coloured people were allowed to be present. There was during the day considerable apprehension that the pertinacity of a negro attorney, recently admitted, on the motion of Mr. Charles Sumner, to practice in the Supreme Court, who insisted on being present with a coloured lady, and the determination of several other coloured gentlemen to bring their ladies to a ball to which everyone was invited who could pay 10 dols. for a ticket, would lead to unpleasantness and cause the white belles of Washington to absent themselves en masse. The negro attorney, however, was overpersuaded, and, for the sake of peace, and with a good sense which did him and his coloured brethren credit, consented to keep away. Congress may pass what laws it pleases about the negro race, but fashion and the ladies are more powerful than the Legislature; and even the members of the Loyal League, who love the coloured man so dearly, cannot persuade their own wives and daughters to tolerate him, except at a distance from their festivities.

RETURNING FROM DEERSTALKING.

The Supplement which we this week present to our readers is an Engraving from one of the best known of those pictures which have made the fame of the artist. Who that has crossed one of those queer, old, half-crumbled bridges after a heavy day over the hills and heather will not recognise the beauty of reality in this work? For it is characteristic of the painter, not only that his animals are faultless even to the wiry curl of a hair tuft and the gradual glaze of a dying eye, but that he can catch the very motions and expressions that denote a story. Here there is satisfied fatigue in the very lurching step of the dogs, in the half weary turn of the pony's head towards the water, and in the faces of the men for whom the piper, supported by the leading gillie, strikes up a triumphant air.

True deerstalking is no child's play; it needs a long climbing walk over the hills and a rough road about the glens; lying silent and watchful in the awful stillness of the mountains, with eye and hand in concert, waiting for the herd whose leader has just appeared scents the air out of the range of a ball; it means, also, being sometimes nearly or quite lost in the wilds for hours together, and tramping on through heavy rain or piercing mist till the rough woollen bonnet on one's head feels like a saturated bath-sponge. He who would go to the Highlands to chase the deer had need to have good sinews, a broad chest, and not be troubled with too sensitive nerves. If he have the qualities mentioned and is a keen sportsman, whether he be out under the lowering gloom of a stormy sky, amidst the grey wreaths of mist climbing the mountain side, or under the fierce sun as it glints on hot bare granite stone or dry lichen crag, he will come home from his day's sport with a sense of harmony in that wild screech and drone which may herald his crossing the bridge with the proceeds of his gun to stretch himself, happily tired, before the fire and eat his supper with a healthy appetite, though, probably (unless he be a mercenary sportsman), without a thought of red venison.

THE GALE.—During the fearful gale of the 19th inst., the Constance life-boat of the National Institution, stationed at Tynemouth, Northumberland, was fortunately the means of saving eight men from the brig Border Chieftain, of Hartlepool, which was wrecked on the Stones, south of the North Pier, Tynemouth. The same life-boat also saved with great difficulty and peril one man from the brigantine Buntin, of Colchester, the remainder of the crew, seven in number, having gone down with the vessel. The Lowestoft life-boat, in connection with the institution, was also the means of rescuing the crew of seven men from a Danish schooner. The Athlow life-boat of the society, in going over the bar at that place during a hurricane, to the assistance of a vessel in distress, was driven against the pier head, and her gallant crew had a narrow escape of their lives. The St. Ives (Cornwall) life-boat, belonging to the institution, saved two men from the brigantine Eclipse, of St. Ives, the remainder of the vessel's crew having been previously saved by a shore boat. The Wexford life-boat of the institution also rescued one man from the schooner Tenser, of Goole. The remainder of the crew and two women were unfortunately drowned before the arrival of the life-boat. The institution's life-boat at Dundalk likewise rescued the crew of seven men from the schooner Delila, of Nantes.

NEW FRENCH SENATORS.—On the occasion of the Prince Imperial's birthday, besides many "decorations," four promotions to the rank of Senator were gazetted. The persons selected for this honour were M. Devienne, President of the Imperial Court of Paris; General Mellinet, who commands the National Guard of the Seine; General Fleury, A.D.C. to the Emperor; and M. H. Chevreau, Prefect of the Rhine. M. Devienne was born in 1800. He was appointed Judge-Auditor at Lyons in 1825, and has been successively Councillor of the Court of that city, President at the Civil Tribunal of Lyons, Procureur-Général at Bordeaux and Lyons, and is now First President of the Imperial Court of Paris. He was deputy for the Rhône from 1844 to 1848. General Mellinet was born at Nantes, and served as Sub-Lieutenant and hardy fifteen years old, before Metz, where he was wounded. He afterwards went through the campaign in Spain, took part in several expeditions in Algeria, and defeated Bou-Maza at Mostaganem; was named Colonel in 1846, and General of Brigade in 1850. He commanded a brigade of the Imperial Guard at Sebastopol, and was wounded in the first assault of the Malakoff. He was an unsuccessful candidate in the Seine-et-Oise, at the elections of 1863, and is now Commander of the National Guard of the Seine. General Fleury, born in 1815, enlisted, in 1837, in the Spahis, and returned to France, in 1848, with the grade of Chef d'Escadron. The President of the Republic attached Commander Fleury to his person as orderly officer. He was named Colonel of the Guides and First Equerry to the Emperor, in 1852; and, since, Aide-de-Camp of his Majesty and General of Division. He is one of the most devoted supporters of the Empire, and has been frequently employed on political and diplomatic missions by the Emperor. M. Chevreau is a native of Belleville, near Paris, where he was born, in 1825. He was occupied in literary pursuits until 1849, when he was appointed Prefect of the Ardèche. On the 2nd of December, 1852, he was called to the post of Secretary-General at the Ministry of the Interior, and was, in 1853, named Councillor of State. He has since been successively Prefect of the Loire-Inférieure and of the Rhône.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON RAILWAY CHARGES.—By the official instructions just issued, the Royal Commission on Railway Charges are directed to inquire into the charges now and heretofore made for conveyance on the several railways of Great Britain and Ireland, and whether it would be practicable to effect any considerable reduction in such charges, with a due regard to safety, punctuality, and expedition. Also, to inquire into the equality or difference of such charges under similar circumstances, whether as between different companies or by the same company in different cases; and, where such inequality or difference exists, to ascertain such inequality or difference; and further to inquire into the actual cost of, and to compare such costs and charges respectively with the costs and charges relatively to the accommodation given and service performed on, the railways in any one or more foreign countries; and to report whether, with a due regard to the progressive extension of the railway system, it would be practicable, by means of any changes in the laws relating to railways or otherwise, to effect a more convenient interchange of traffic between the several systems of railways, and more economical arrangements for the working of railways, so as to make any considerable reduction in the said costs of conveyance, and in the charges to the public on account thereof; and more effectually to provide for securing the safe, expeditious, punctual, and cheap transit of passengers and merchandise upon the said railways with as near an approach as may be to uniformity of charge and equality of treatment for all persons under similar circumstances. The Commissioners are likewise empowered to invite such persons as they deem most competent to afford correct information on the subject of this inquiry to attend, and to bring with them all such books, documents, papers, and accounts as may appear calculated to assist their researches in the execution of the trust hereby reposed in them. At the close of their inquiries the Commissioners are to report the result of their proceedings as soon as convenient. The names of the Royal Commissioners are William Duke of Devonshire, Richard John Earl of Donoughmore, Edward Henry Smith Stanley (commonly called Lord Stanley), Edward Frederick Leveson Gower, Robert Lowe, Sir Rowland Hill, John Arthur Roebuck, Thomas Berry Horsfall, Robert Dalglish, George Carr Glyn, Acton Sime Ayrton, Douglas Galton, Edward Terrick Hamilton, and John Robinson McLean. Mr. William Pole is appointed secretary to the Commission.

MESSRS. ATTWOOD, SPOONER, AND CO.'S BANK,
BIRMINGHAM.

WITH the exception of the great Townhall and the new Exchange, the architectural features of which are worthy of a building devoted to the commerce of one of the most business-like towns in the kingdom, there are few public edifices in Birmingham which offer many attractions to the visitor, or which have attained any local celebrity.

Perhaps the Hen and Chickens—where solemn "commercials" doze in the warm parlour over short whisk and stimulants; and where, before the era of the Exchange, merchants and manufacturers congregated to discuss affairs and magnificence of old port—was, and is still, the most noted place in all that industrial hive; for the railway station is but transitually convenient; and the big, melancholy hall is only appreciable under the conditions of a monster meeting and much real or apparent fervour.

Whatever may be the claims of each or any of these places, however, they have yielded in interest during the past few days to an ordinary unpretentious building, which, having been (metaphorically) regarded as one of the most stable and secure of human edifices, has (still metaphorically) come down with a sudden crash and buried a large number of unsuspecting people in its ruin. The actual brick and mortar, stone and plaster, structure which is represented in our Engraving has a morbid attraction for scores of people just now who had, perhaps, seldom been inside its doors. The downfall which has brought dismay to a still larger number is that of the firm which had for years been believed to have been built up by slow and sure degrees—an edifice of commercial credit, with foundations secured by the reputations of its first architects.

The history of the firm whose failure has been so disastrous to a large number of people in Birmingham is that of a score of other houses which, founded on local wealth and influence, were able, in the days before joint-stock banks, to extend their operations far beyond their original sphere of action.

The entire concern, however, would seem to have been in a precarious condition ever since the death of Mr. Matthias Attwood, in 1836, and the succession of his son, Mr. George Attwood, to his estates, which were considerable, and generally believed to be very valuable, and to his position in the bank. Now, Mr. George Attwood was interested in various other speculations; had, indeed, so many iron in the fire that in order to keep them all hot he took a large allowance of fuel from the bank for that purpose.

There were collieries in process of working, steelworks close at hand; a tube manufactory further off, at Baskerville; and a large manufactory at Rouen, where rollers were made for sale. The large sums of money required for these operations, and the fact that they were fed from the bank capital, made it necessary at last for Mr. Spooner to represent to his partner the necessity for his placing the bank in a better position with regard to his own account there; and, in order that the necessary investigation might be made and affairs diligently rectified, the Messrs. Marshall were invited to join the firm and bring their business tact and ability to its assistance. It was soon discovered that Mr. Attwood's debts were so considerable as to require the making over of his estates, even in part liquidation; for, at the time of this being done, at the end of 1863, he owed £420,000; while the value of the estates themselves was set down at only £167,000, that sum being applied to the reduction of his

The two Messrs. Marshall drew but £750 a year, and Mr. Spooner £1000 a year. All the rest, together with the incomes from the various estates, was devoted to the reduction of the debt.

This is a summary of the narrative which was listened to the other day at a meeting of the bank's creditors, many of whom exhibited an impatience which is excusable in sufferers who have had little experience in those great commercial bubbles, the bursting of which are so often regarded as an inevitable misfortune by more stoical speculators. At the hour named for the meeting of the creditors the crowd outside the Exchange buildings completely blocked the carriage-way; an angry, excited crowd, which pressed and heaved, and hissed and groaned, and wildly waved the notes of the ruined bank, although an advertisement had actually appeared in the local paper offering to buy those same notes at half their nominal value, and to take any of such securities on the estate at ten shillings in the pound.

This is the story of the decline and fall of one of the most trusted banking establishments in the surrounding district, if not

mastered all that was then known of physiology, comparative anatomy and the allied sciences. He left a name and fame which are more truly illustrious than that of some of the greatest conquerors; and this was done by him in spite of ill-health, long-continued pecuniary difficulties, and the coldness of his contemporaries. His wonderful museum, the nucleus of the grand collection of the Royal College of Surgeons, in Lincoln's-inn-fields, was sold at his death to Government for £15,000, in order to pay the debts which he had incurred by its formation and to afford the means of support to his family, to whom it was almost all that he had to leave. This great public benefactor was anxious to form a complete catalogue of his collection. When he died the task of making the catalogue was intrusted to Sir Everard Home, Hunter's brother-in-law, and only surviving executor; but only a very small portion of the nineteen folio manuscript volumes left by Hunter ever saw the light. On removing several bodies from under St. Martin's Church about three years ago, that of Hunter was found by Mr. Frank Buckland; and it was subsequently removed to Westminster and reinterred.

It is a fitting tribute to the great teacher of surgery that his statue should occupy the place of honour in the college which is supported by and devoted to the profession of which he was such a distinguished ornament; and those who had the duty of superintending the work may well be congratulated on its being performed in a manner worthy alike of the occasion and the subject.

Mr. Weekes's statue of Hunter is one of the best in the possession of any public institution in London, and fitly commemorates the man who was alike eminent in almost every branch of surgery and anatomy, while the lifelike lineaments seem to remind the spectator of that calm and thoughtful man who, after a life of severe study and constant professional duty, not unmingled with great bodily suffering, could say at the last, when he lay on his deathbed, on the 30th of March, 1783, "Had I strength enough to hold a pen, I would write how easy and pleasant a thing it is to die."

THE CHINESE
COLLECTION
AT THE CRYSTAL
PALACE.

The art-treasures of this always attractive building have just been increased by a remarkable acquisition. A collection of porcelain, jade, silks, furs, and Chinese curiosities, formed by Captain de Negroni out of the contents of the famous Summer Palace at Pekin, is now on view in a substantial pagoda erected for the purpose in front of the French Court. The variety and value of the articles thus exhibited will be understood from the announcement that they are nearly 500 in number, and are estimated to be worth more than £300,000. At the time the allied forces were advancing on their victorious march towards Pekin, Captain de Negroni was in command of a French regiment at Yenmin-Yuen, a kind of Chinese Versailles. It was here, it will be remembered,

the Summer Palace of the Emperor was sacrificed to the wrath of the allies, who had encountered such terrible proofs of the perfidy of their foes, and it was then the Captain had the good fortune to acquire, by gift and purchase, the highly interesting materials for the present collection, which is now for the first time exhibited in public. Amongst such a multitude of objects, each worthy of the closest inspection and all possessing distinct claims to attention, it is obviously impossible to do more than indicate some of the more prominent attractions. The bare list of the articles in the collection reads like a page from the "Arabian Nights." Many will here probably see for the first time specimens of that highly-prized stone called "jade," which, if wrought up by an artist in an unsatisfactory manner, dooms him to instant decapitation. A fine example of ingenious carving in this equally hard and beautiful substance will be found in the model of the celebrated Imperial junk, where the poetic mind of the artificer is displayed in the poise of the rowers, the table covered with fruit and flowers, and the miniature birds at the side. The specimens of porcelain, or artificial jade, are evidently of the finest manufacture, and many are masterpieces of ceramic art. With the European jewels, presented at various times to the successive Emperors, some singularly ingenious devices will be found associated. The two little birds who sing and flutter in their golden cage, by means of mechanism composed of 2500 distinct pieces, will



ATTWOOD AND SPOONER'S BANK, BIRMINGHAM.

in the country; and it is not a little curious that, notwithstanding the impatience and irritability of the creditors, they appear to be unanimous in the wish to keep the estate out of the Bankruptcy Court. Such, in fact, is the delightful uncertainty and the strange condition of our present bankruptcy laws, that the sufferers are anxious to do anything which may facilitate the winding-up of the affairs rather than accept this dreaded alternative.

DR. JOHN HUNTER.

JOHN HUNTER, though far from being adequately appreciated in his own day, is, by common consent of his successors, esteemed the greatest man that ever practised surgery amongst us. Considered merely as a surgeon, he was the author of many discoveries of great practical importance. His improvement of the operation for aneurism was undoubtedly the most brilliant discovery of his century in the surgical art. But it was less by his particular discoveries than by the general spirit of scientific investigation which he imparted to surgical practice, and by his demonstrations of its great inductive value, that he rendered such incalculable service to the whole medical profession. Born in 1728, the youngest of ten children, his education was almost entirely neglected in youth. Yet, by indefatigable industry, and by concentrating upon his subsequent studies a mind that was at once eminently practical and philosophical, he

mastered all that was then known of physiology, comparative anatomy and the allied sciences. He left a name and fame which are more truly illustrious than that of some of the greatest conquerors; and this was done by him in spite of ill-health, long-continued pecuniary difficulties, and the coldness of his contemporaries. His wonderful museum, the nucleus of the grand collection of the Royal College of Surgeons, in Lincoln's-inn-fields, was sold at his death to Government for £15,000, in order to pay the debts which he had incurred by its formation and to afford the means of support to his family, to whom it was almost all that he had to leave. This great public benefactor was anxious to form a complete catalogue of his collection. When he died the task of making the catalogue was intrusted to Sir Everard Home, Hunter's brother-in-law, and only surviving executor; but only a very small portion of the nineteen folio manuscript volumes left by Hunter ever saw the light. On removing several bodies from under St. Martin's Church about three years ago, that of Hunter was found by Mr. Frank Buckland; and it was subsequently removed to Westminster and reinterred.

make the tiny warbler that used to attract such large audiences at the last Exhibition shut itself up in its box with diminished head. The connoisseur in gems will behold a profusion of rubies and other precious stones; but his special admiration will, no doubt, be centred in a splendid sapphire, said to be the largest in the world, weighing 742 carats, and valued at £160,000. A great curiosity, which only to gaze upon would have gladdened the heart of the Tradescants of the seventeenth century, is a little bottle containing the essence of crocodile, which is reported to be the strongest stimulant in existence, and, when used, terminating life through the excessive action of the emotions. The only other bottle of crocodile essence is said to be in the hands of the Sultan of Turkey, who, it is to be hoped, considers the rarity more ornamental than useful. The philosopher may ponder over a curious history of the illustrious Confucius, said to have been composed in the lifetime of that great reformer; and the imagination may find inexhaustible food for speculation in the meaning of those quaint pictures illustrative of domestic customs and religious ceremonies, which, through such a series of strange chances, have been thus unexpectedly revealed to the gaze of barbarians. The collection is, indeed, singularly interesting, and must prove exceedingly attractive.

SHERMAN'S CAMPAIGN IN THE CAROLINAS.

GENERAL SHERMAN'S new campaign, so far as it has been developed, appears not to have been a series of battles but of difficult marches. The pleasant promenade through Georgia was not repeated in the Carolinas. A wide region of swampy country had to be traversed before the Federal army could emerge upon the sandy track of the uplands. An idea of the difficulties which beset Sherman in the first stage of his South Carolina campaign is conveyed by our illustration. Such swamps as that near M'Phersonville, made doubly intricate by trees which had been felled by the enemy, and where the advance was not unfrequently harassed by Confederate skirmishers, occurred every few miles in the earlier stages of the march. In the movement from M'Phersonville the water was up to the horses' girths.

As in the advance from Atlanta on Savannah, so in this march from that point northward, Sherman's movements appear to be hidden alike from friend and enemy. At Richmond and Washington there is the same ignorance of details; or, if the Southern Government be better informed, they do not allow any information to transpire. It is known that there are so many columns, that certain points have been

reached, and that a few skirmishes have occurred; but all else is in obscurity.

Slocum's column, which is Sherman's left wing, began to move on Jan. 27 to Sisters' Ferry, which is seventy miles above Savannah. The greater part of the column and all its trains were obliged to move up the Georgia bank of the river to avoid the impassable swamps on the Carolina side. The river had been swollen by a recent freshet, and was thus a good temporary base for Slocum, as gun-boats and transports could be brought up as far as Sisters' Ferry, which was reached on Jan. 30. After crossing the river, Slocum's column occupied Robertsburg, and thence threatened both Branchville and Augusta, the Confederate troops being divided for the defence of both. While Kilpatrick's cavalry threatened Augusta, Slocum crossed Whippy Swamp and the eastern branches of the Cambahée River, moving on Branchville, which was turned, and had to be abandoned by the Southern forces. Howard at the same time moved from Pocotaligo, on the Savannah and Charleston railroad; and these movements, by isolating Charleston, led to the evacuation of that city by the Confederates. Sherman took possession of Columbia, the capital of South Carolina, on Feb. 17. Beauregard falling back upon North Carolina, and from that point the intelligence of the movements of either army is of the most vague description.



STATUE OF DR. JOHN HUNTER, IN THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.
(HENRY WEEKES, ESQ. R.A., SCULPTOR.)



EXHIBITION OF WORKS OF ART AND CURIOSITIES, FROM THE SUMMER PALACE, PEKIN, AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 253.

THE HOUSE AT WORK.

COME, let us enter the gallery and see the Imperial Legislature at work, not badgering the Minister, not wrangling, not talking to Bunkum, but honestly at work. Mr. Speaker's chair, you see, is empty. By this we know that the House is in Committee. The president now is not Mr. Speaker, but that slight, unpretending-looking gentleman in evening dress, sitting at the table, in the place usually occupied by Sir Denis le Marchant, the chief clerk. The name of the chairman is Mr. John Charles Dodson. He is member for East Sussex, and has but lately been elected to the chairmanship, vice Mr. Massy, resigned, and gone to India to manage financial matters there. Mr. Dodson is all-inexperienced yet in the duties of his office, but he has beside him Mr. Erskine May, who knows the duties of the office well, and, indeed, everything else of Parliamentary form and practice, and will effectually prompt and teach the new chairman his duties. There are not many members present. Twenty-eight, we make them. But, then, remember it is dinner-time; and, further, that the House is at solid, serious work, which is not very attractive. The business is to consider the Army Estimates and vote our military supplies. But, though few in number, the members are all alert and attentive, as you see, listening closely to the speaker, and, with the estimate in hand, checking his statements. General Peel, ex-Secretary for War, sits exactly opposite the Treasury bench. By his side is Sir Stafford Northcote, who was, in the Derby Government, Secretary to the Treasury, and naturally takes an interest in all that relates to the expenditure of the public money. Rumour says, or rather said some time ago, that in the next Conservative Government he will be Chancellor of the Exchequer, if some other place can be found for Mr. Disraeli; and a gentleman of Sir Stafford's position and abilities may naturally be expected to aspire to a higher office than that of Financial Secretary. These are the only men of note on the front Opposition bench who seem to be deeply interested. Disraeli is there; but, from his appearance, we should judge that he is mentally far away from such vulgar sub-lunary things as Army Estimates. He is not asleep, but evidently in dreamland. Of the other Conservatives present we would say nothing, except that they are all Captains, or Colonels, or in some way connected with the Army.

LORD HARTINGTON.

"Who is the speaker?" It is the Marquis of Hartington, Under-Secretary of State for War. He is eldest son of the great Whig magnate the Duke of Devonshire. The noble Marquis is introducing and explaining the Army Estimates. He looks too young for such an important office, does he not? But he is not so young as he looks. His age is thirty-two—rising thirty-three, as we should say of a horse. "He is not an impressive speaker?" By no means. Look at him. How nonchalant and listless is his manner as he leans forward sideways, resting his arm upon the table, giving his hearers the impression that whether they listen or shut their ears is all one to him. Moreover, he is not fluent of speech, and his sentences are so imperfectly constructed, that it is never safe to leave them until parts of them have been recalled to be mended, or, as we say, licked into more perfect shape. In short, his Lordship never was, and never will be, an effective speaker; and yet the House likes him, and every year he is complimented for the knowledge of his business which he displays and for the clearness of the statements which he gives to the House. That he understands his business is certain; for, though he is pestered with questions on all sorts of military subjects, from the arming of a fort down to the clothing of a soldier; from a twenty-two-ton gun to the strap of a knapsack, he is never at fault. And then, how serenely calm and imperturbable he is! Nothing puts him out. An impatient word or gesture never escapes him. He is always ready to listen, always ready to answer, and always respectful to the questioner. This latter characteristic of his Lordship is, perhaps, that which more than anything has gained him the good will of the House. There is nothing that is so effective here as this innocent bribery. Let an official but treat the House at all times with respect, and he may do almost anything with it; but if, on the other hand, he be haughty, pert, and offensive, his doom is sealed. On this head Lord Hartington never offends. He answers foolish questions with as much gravity and respect as if they were pregnant with wisdom; and is as patient and courteous to Mr. Darby Griffith as he is to General Peel. There is, too, another characteristic of the noble Lord which is worthy of notice. He never wanders from his subject into matters not specially before the House. "You consider him, then, on the whole, a good representative of the War Department?" That he is, certainly; and report says that he is an effective administrator, patient, industrious, and intelligent. There have been wise reforms carried out in that department lately—notably, a hundred of the most incompetent clerks have been got rid of, and a number of active, intelligent non-commissioned officers have been brought in to fill their places. And now let us drop his Lordship, and, after taking another glance at the House, depart. The only Minister of the Crown present besides Lord Hartington is the venerable Premier. He is always in his place. Other Ministers, when nothing connected with their departments is on, fly away to their family dinner; but Lord Palmerston never moves, except just for half an hour, about eight or nine o'clock, to get a cup of tea. He dines at home at three; about half-past four or a quarter to five he enters the house, and there he keeps watch and ward, "fixed as a sentinel," though perhaps not at all times "all eye, all ear," till the House rises, and then he walks home. "Walks home?" Yes; walks home all the way to Cambridge House, Piccadilly—a good mile and a half. Whether it be hot or cold, wet or dry, it is difficult, we are told, to induce him to ride. A cold bath in the morning, a gallop after breakfast, meals slight and few, and a walk home—these are the means which the noble Lord adopts to keep himself up to his work.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

Friday week was St. Patrick's Day. "St. Patrick's, yer honour." Day of St. Patrick's birth or death—a day arbitrarily fixed to celebrate the good deeds and holy character of Ireland's famous patron saint, who some 1400 years ago preached Christianity to the Irish, chased all the snakes out of the land, and did many other wonderful works, all of which the hagiology of the Romish Church duly record, and which, to this day, tens of thousands of the Irish people devoutly believe. Well, on this day the Irish members, to a man, appear in the house with the shamrock in their hats, and one who is not an Irishman—to wit, Sir Robert Peel, the Irish Secretary—in compliment to Ireland, also mounts a sprig of this famous Irish weed. It is but natural that on St. Patrick's Day Irishmen should be merry, and merry they were, and laughed consundly on Friday night. The special occasion of mirth was this—it seems that in Ireland, an Irish "gentleman" (so the statement runs) has been convicted of "coshering" and sentenced to penal servitude for seven years. Now, this fact looks strange, as everybody must allow; and it is not surprising that Mr. Hennessy, who, in that he is an eloquent defender of Ireland and Irishmen, even though they may be "cosherers," is a worthy successor of St. Patrick himself, should call Sir Robert Peel's attention to the punishment inflicted upon this poor "coshering" gentleman. "What is 'coshering,'" Sir Robert, that it should be visited with such a punishment? Tell us, Sir Robert." When this question was first asked Sir Robert could not tell—he had probably never heard of the cosher or his coshering; but on Friday, having got himself coached up, he rose to reply, full to the brim of fun, as anybody might see from the twinkle of his eye. "This 'gentleman' was convicted," said Sir Robert, "under an old Act, *temp. Queen Anne*, for the effectual suppression of Tories and Rapparees (roars of laughter), and for preventing persons from becoming Tories or resorting to them." (Continued laughter, in which Mr. Speaker and the wiggled clerks could not help joining.) This was the title of the Act, in short. Sir Robert then gave us the clause under which "the gentleman was convicted." "All loose, idle vagrants, and such others," said the clause, "as pretend to be Irish gentlemen, and will not work or betake themselves to

any honest trade or livelihood, but wander about demanding victuals, and 'coshering' (cachinatory explosion again) from house to house, &c., may be presented by the grand jury, and sent to trial." This was the Act under which this "coshering gentleman" had been convicted, to the great delight, as Sir Robert had been told, of all his neighbours. Mr. Hennessy, unmoved by the laughter of the House, would fain have extracted a serious grievance out of this affair; but neither Irish nor English were in the mood to think of grievances. Indeed, the general opinion upon this coshering gentleman's punishment was that it "served him right." For there we had before the House a pattern of this coshering Tory Rapparee, not as a poor mendicant humbly begging "a halfpenny from yer honour, for the love of God, to kape the chilfer from starving," but as a bold marauder, or, as the Irish term is, cosherer, armed with shillelagh, or more deadly weapon, going from house to house, and levying black mail; and, do what Mr. Hennessy might, he could get up no pity, not even amongst Irishmen, for this coshering Rapparee.

MR. SCULLY ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

But the climax of our merit came when Mr. Scully rose. But here our art fails us. The manner of Mr. Scully was simply indescribable. And, as to his speech, quick of ear and clever with stenographic pencil must have been the gentleman in the gallery who could have reported such a tumultuous scene—that strange, incoherent mass of rollicking fun, tangled nonsense, and Irish bulls. We have seen several attempts at reports of this speech, but they are all failures. Now and then we got hold of a sentence tolerably coherent. Here is one: "And, as to this Act of Parliament, I should like to ask the House if the gentlemen on the Treasury bench are not all Tories in the Irish sense (inextinguishable laughter); men who won't work (again laughter). In my opinion, every man in the Government is, politically speaking, an Irish gentleman—not one of them do any work at all." This curious definition of an Irish gentleman tickled the House amazingly. Mr. B. Cochrane here rose to order. "Was there any question before the House?" Mr. Speaker—"Yes; the motion is that the House do adjourn." Whereupon Mr. Scully proceeded: "Politically speaking, no doubt, every member of the Government was indictable under this Act for refusing to work (laughter and cries of 'Order, 'Question, question'). Question? Well, what is the question? Did any man mean to say that the members on the Treasury bench did any work," &c., till at length Mr. Scully, overwhelmed by noise, dropped into his seat, and soon afterwards went off, doubtless to celebrate St. Patrick's Day by dining with his brother Irishmen—if he had not dined already.

MR. HENNESSY.

"From grave to gay, from lively to severe." This is an alteration common in the House of Commons. After this exciting scene, Mr. Hennessy, who could get no sympathy, but only chaff and mockery, when he advocated the cause of his "Irish gentleman," turned up the question of Poland again—Poland, Poland, *iterumque* Poland. Surely, Mr. Hennessy must have learned by this time that by no alchemy of his can any political capital be extracted from Poland. The House, if not the country, is wearied of Poland, having long since come to the conclusion that, as we cannot send soldiers to the help of Poland, silence upon Poland is the wisest policy; and so when Mr. Hennessy rose most of the members dropped away. Mr. Hennessy managed, however, to get up a discussion, rather short, though, and uncommonly dreary; and, in the end—his case having been completely turned inside out, and the contents thereof shown to be mere chaff, with not a single corn in it, by the noble Lord at the head of her Majesty's Government—Mr. Hennessy had to withdraw his motion, be content that he had been allowed to frit his hour upon the stage and show his powers, if he had done no more, and then to depart, to pour out libations to blessed St. Patrick, at the London Tavern, if that were the fane—as we have heard it was—in which the annual worship was performed.

FAMILY JARS.—MR. FORSTER.

The gentlemen below the gangway, on the Ministerial side of the House, form a sort of family apart from the Whigs above, and are bound together by common political opinions. But accidents and jars will occur in the best-regulated families, as we often hear; and in this Radical family, now and then, we have family jars. We had one on Friday night. After the motion on Poland, arose Mr. W. E. Forster, with a grievance which he has long nursed and more than once presented to the House. His grievance is this, as far as we can understand it:—We have a Board of Trade, as all of us know—for is not the Right Hon. Mr. Milner Gibson, Cabinet Minister, the President thereof? and have not all of us who have to write upon Government matters seen upon our tables thick blue-books, entitled "Returns of the Board of Trade," and full of bewildering figures—bewildering at first sight, but all orderly enough when they come to be painfully scanned? Well, Mr. Forster's grievance seems to be this:—Board of Trade ought to superintend and manage everything relating to trade which requires management, especially foreign commercial treaties and the like. But Board of Trade cannot do this, it seems. Board of Trade has no power; is, indeed, only a consultative board. Foreign Office is the executive, and Board of Trade is only the adviser—Board of Trade furnishing facts for Foreign Office, and Foreign Office utilising said facts. But then, practically, neither has Foreign Office the power, for it has no staff for the work. And so it happens that, between the office that has no legal power and the office that has no material power, little or nothing is done. Well, on Friday night Mr. Forster, through a long and able speech, poured his sorrows, or rather the sorrows of the chambers of commerce, into the breasts of the House, and the House listened attentively, as it always does when Mr. Forster speaks; and to ignorant people like ourselves he seemed to make a case.

THE OTHER SIDE.

But here, as in most other cases, there are two sides, as the Right Hon. Robert Lowe, once Vice-President of the Board of Trade, soon showed, in sharp and pungent words, and also Mr. White, in a speech of an hour's length—the best speech, perhaps, which he ever delivered—showing great knowledge of his subject; spoken out, *ore rotundo*, with but little of that nervousness which, at first, used to impede the hon. member's utterance; and a speech so important that the *Times* reported it at full length. The gist of both these speeches seemed to be summed up in the pithy saying of old Lord Melbourne, quoted by Mr. Lowe. *Trade!* "Why can't you let it alone?" What is the use of all this Government interference, coddling, and nursing, and protecting? Manage trade yourselves. Let the chambers of commerce send out agents to get up facts, and prepare for and negotiate treaties if they cannot carry them into effect. Why pester the Government? The less that Government, with its delays, and circumlocutions, and ignorances, and antiquated officialisms and formalities, has to do with our trade the better. "Let Government," said Mr. White, in effect, "mind its own business, and we will mind ours;—protect our wives and properties at home and abroad, and leave us to the unmolested management of our own affairs. He also pitched into the chambers of commerce—protectionist in their aims—as fussy; and, in short, was severe upon them. Mr. Edward Baines was very irate at this attack upon his chambers of commerce—very angry—and called witnesses to character, which do not go for much, except, you know, to extenuate punishment if you cannot disprove the charge. And so we had a family jar, "Which is right?" How should we know? This much, though, we may say. Mr. Forster is an able man; Mr. Baines ditto. But then, on the other side, Mr. Lowe has been at the Board of Trade, and has seen its machinery at work. Mr. White is an experienced merchant. Coddling, and management, and fostering (we mean no pun) of commerce by Government is notoriously bad, and he that first used that suggestive phrase, "Can't you let us alone?" was a very wise old bird.

CHESSPLAYING has just been introduced as an additional attraction in the reading-room of the Crystal Palace, and will doubtless be fully appreciated by many of the numerous subscribers and visitors who frequent this very agreeable resort.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Industrial Exhibitions Bill was passed through Committee. The sitting occupied but a quarter of an hour.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

POLAND.

Mr. P. HENNESSY moved to resolve that, whereas the Russian Government shows its determination to set at naught the engagements it contracted in 1815 respecting Poland, and whereas the respect of those engagements was the condition on which the Powers of Europe consented to recognise as lawful the possession by the Czar of the greatest part of ancient Poland, this House cannot any longer abstain from proclaiming that the violation of those engagements implies the forfeiture by the Czar of all right to such dominion, and also of all right to any further payment by this country of the annual sum conceded to Russia under the name of the Russo-Dutch Loan, that payment having been, in 1815, undertaken to be made during the space of one hundred years in consideration of Russia faithfully co-operating in the maintenance of the stipulations of the same treaty of 1815.

Lord PALMERSTON strongly opposed the motion, which, after some debate, was withdrawn.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND THE BOARD OF TRADE.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER asked what steps, if any, the Government had taken or intended to take to carry out the recommendations of the Committee appointed to inquire into the arrangement between the Foreign Office and the Board of Trade in reference to the trade with foreign nations.

The question elicited a discussion of some length, Mr. LAYARD explaining the course adopted by the Foreign Office.

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Mr. COX called attention to the increase of the assessment for police rate in the metropolis. In St. Mary's parish, Islington, the increase was something like 12^½ or 13 per cent. He asked to what purpose the increased payment was applied.

Sir G. GREY said the necessity for the increased rate was caused by the increase of pay to the police and the unavoidable increase in their number.

MONDAY, MARCH 20.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE NEW LAW COURTS.

Earl STANHOPE called attention to the site proposed for the new courts of justice, which he considered as more unsuitable than a site upon the Thames Embankment. He hoped the error would not be fallen into that had been committed by our ancestors when they built the magnificent cathedral of St. Paul's and took no steps to provide an open space around it from which a view of its architectural beauties might be obtained. In his opinion, the Thames Embankment was by far the best site for the new courts. It would also have the advantage of water communication. The noble Earl further objected to the appropriation of the Suitor's Fee Fund to pay the expense of the new buildings.

The LORD CHANCELLOR could not agree that the Thames Embankment would afford the best site, and said that the cost of carrying out such a scheme as that would be much greater than that which had been fixed upon.

Observations were also made upon the subject by the Earl of Harrowby, the Earl of Longford, and Lord Redesdale.

The Industrial Exhibitions Bill was then read a third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL.

Mr. CHILDERES stated, in reply to Sir M. Peto, that the joint Committee on Greenwich Hospital appointed during the recess had made their report, which had been adopted by the Admiralty and the Treasury, and he hoped shortly to communicate the details to the House, and to introduce a measure to carry out its recommendations.

OUR COAST DEFENCES.

Mr. H. BERKELEY directed attention to the possibility of a war with America, and to the absence of guns capable of protecting our coasts from the aggression of a maritime Power.

Mr. Peacocke, Sir H. Willoughby, Mr. H. Baillie, and Mr. Monsell also made some remarks on the subject.

The Marquis of HARTINGTON declined to discuss the possibility of a war with the United States, whilst he believed the probability of such a misfortune to be very remote indeed. With regard to the coast defences, in case of war the artillery volunteers would be placed in any works where their presence might be required and make use of the guns that were now in their possession for practice. He admitted that neither the old nor the new coast-batteries were as yet thoroughly armed. So far as the new batteries were finished they had been armed; but those at Plymouth, Spithead, and other places were not sufficiently advanced to receive their armaments, which, however, would be of a very heavy description. As to the old batteries, he denied that they were in such a state as not to be able to defend themselves against the attacks of wooden ships. Even the 68-pounders were efficient for that purpose: so also was the 110-pounder Armstrong gun, although it was not adequate to cope with iron-plated vessels. With reference to the defence of the commercial ports, he always understood that it was one of the purposes of the fleet to protect them, and not that it was contemplated to defend the whole coast by armed batteries. We had now very good 12-ton and 20-ton guns, and he hoped to have as perfect a weapon as could be obtained in the course of the next year.

Several other hon. members having addressed the House, the subject dropped.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

The House then went into Committee of Supply on the Army Estimates, and several votes were passed after a considerable amount of criticism and discussion.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Marquis TOWNSHEND asked whether the Government intended taking steps to rectify the omission of the Middlesex magistrates to provide for the reception of persons committed to prison on civil process from the police courts.

Earl GRANVILLE said there was a dispute with respect to the liability to provide such accommodation, which would be judicially settled next term. In the mean time the Middlesex magistrates had been requested to provide it.

Marquis TOWNSHEND also inquired if the practice of the guardians of the poor in the metropolis, in turning out of the workhouse, early in the morning, the casual poor who had no means of employment or residence, had received the direct sanction of the Poor-Law Board.

Earl GRANVILLE replied that the Poor-Law Board had taken great pains to impress on the metropolitan guardians the necessity of promptly relieving the casual poor. They were not aware of the existence of the practice alluded to; but he believed that most of these persons discharged themselves, and if any declared that they were destitute they were transferred to the relieving officer.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FIRES IN THE METROPOLIS.

Mr. G. T. BARING stated, in reply to Mr. Hankey, that the Government would very shortly introduce a bill for the better protection of life and property against fires in the metropolis.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC OATH.

Mr. MONSELL moved that the House should go into Committee for the purpose of directing the Chairman to move that leave be given to bring in a bill to substitute an oath for the oath required to be taken and subscribed by Roman Catholics under the Catholic Emancipation Act. The portions of the present oath which he would abolish were the clauses renouncing, rejecting, and abjuring the doctrine that Princes excommunicated or deposed by the Pope or any authority of the see of Rome might be deposed or murdered by the subjects or by any person whatever; testifying that the declaration was made in its plain and ordinary sense; disclaiming, disowning, and abjuring any intention to subvert the Established Church; and swearing never to disturb or weaken the Protestant religion or the Protestant Government in the United Kingdom. For these he proposed to substitute the simple oath of supremacy.

Sir G. GREY assented to the motion so far as the introduction of the bill was concerned. The subject was one well entitled to the consideration of the House, and when the measure came to a second reading he hoped they would approach it with a desire to maintain the security of the Protestant religion whilst doing justice to any claim that hon. members might make for relief. Leave was given to introduce the bill.

THE FIRE INSURANCE DUTY.

Mr. H. SHERIDAN moved that, in the opinion of the House, it was expedient that the reduction of fire insurance duty made in the last Session should be extended, at the earliest opportunity, to houses, household goods, and all descriptions of insurable property.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER moved, as an amendment, the "previous question." He argued that the time chosen by Mr. Sheridan for making his proposal was inopportune, and said there was no precedent of a Government according to such a motion before the expiration of the financial year. It would be contrary to the duty of the Government indeed to come to an irrevocable decision on the repeal of any tax until they knew within certain limits the revenue and charge for the year.

Upon a division, the "previous question" was negatived by 137 to 65, being a majority of 72 against Ministers. The motion was agreed to *nem. con.* amidst loud and protracted cheering.

NEW BILLS.

In Committee of the whole House, leave was given to Sir J. Shelley to bring in a bill for regulating the qualifications of chemists and druggists to

England and Wales. Leave was also given to Mr. Göschen to bring in a bill to provide for the abolition of certain tests in connection with academical degrees in the University of Oxford.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On the motion of Sir H. Cairns, the Small Benefices (Ireland) Act (1860) Amendment Bill was read a second time.

On the motion of Mr. Longfield, the Married Woman's Property (Ireland) Bill was read a second time.

Sir C. O'Loughlin moved the second reading of the Railway Travelling (Ireland) Bill. Its object was to secure the privilege of travelling on Irish railways on Sundays, and to put third-class passengers on the same footing as they were in England.—Mr. Blake opposed the bill, and, after some discussion, the measure was rejected by forty-two votes to thirty-nine.

In Committee of Ways and Means, a sum of £15,000,000 was voted from the Consolidated Fund on account of the public service.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1865.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON RAILWAYS.

Now that the Royal Commission to inquire into the management of our railways has been formally constituted, the public may entertain a reasonable hope that they will be placed in possession of full information as to the working, condition, and revenue of these immense and most important undertakings. And we are glad to find that, although not formally set forth in their minute of instructions, the Commissioners will be empowered and expected to inquire into the causes of accidents and the means of preventing them. The promise that this should be done was wrung from Mr. Milner Gibson, though in a somewhat ungracious and indifferent manner, in the House of Commons in reference to an accident which occurred a few days ago on the Great Western line. An express train left Reading for London after the officials had been informed that something was wrong with the axle of one of the carriages. No notice, however, was taken of the matter. The train proceeded at express speed; the carriage took fire; every effort was made by passengers to attract the attention of the guard and of the officials at the various intermediate stations, but in vain; several gentlemen sustained injuries in their efforts to call attention to the danger they were in; and the wheel flew off just as the train reached the terminus, smashing a considerable portion of the stonework of the platform. The lives and limbs of the passengers were thus saved almost by a miracle, but they were subjected to danger and anxiety of a most painful character, which they might easily have been spared had there been any means of communicating with the guard or had the station-masters and porters on the line been at their posts. When these facts were brought to the notice of Mr. Gibson, and the question was asked how long the travelling public were to be subjected to such perils, the right hon. gentleman coolly replied that he did not know, but the whole system would be inquired into by the Commissioners. That such will be the case is so far satisfactory; but Royal Commissions are rather slow agencies; a considerable period must elapse ere this inquiry be concluded; and is nothing to be done in the mean time? We hear plenty of schemes talked of for providing means of communication with the guards of trains, but no steps seem to be taken to put them in operation. The directors fold their arms and look on with indifference; the old system of mismanagement and carelessness continues; every individual who takes a seat in a railway carriage does so at the risk of his life; and the Minister whose special duty it is to supervise the working of our railway system can only say that he can't tell how long it may be ere a remedy will be applied! There is no difficulty in devising a remedy for this class of accidents, at least: a rope or a piece of wire connecting each carriage with the guard's van is enough; and why are not railway directors compelled to adopt it? Some time ago, when her Majesty, with that thoughtfulness and care of her people which distinguish her, called attention to the dangers of railway travelling, it was hoped that the companies would bestir themselves. Nothing was done, however; and we fear that nothing will be done till a few directors and traffic managers are consigned to penal servitude, and a Cabinet Minister or two are killed—to smash up a President of the Board of Trade, perhaps, would be the most effective means. We repeat what we have before said, that the directors and managers, and not mere underlings, must be made to feel in their own persons the consequences of their mismanagement and parsimony. When a few "honourable directors" have experienced a taste of the treadmill for killing or maiming their customers, honourable directors generally will see the propriety of discharging their debt to the public in a somewhat more efficient manner than they do at present.

Another point to which the attention of the Railway Commissioners will be directed is, of course, the scale of fares. A very important point. The public have a right not only to safe but to cheap travelling—as cheap, at all events, as it can be made, consistent with safety and a fair return for the capital invested. We believe it is understood, when railway companies are granted powers to make lines, that all profits

over seven per cent on capital should be applied in reduction of fares; but, somehow, it never happens that any surplus is available for this purpose. So many unprofitable lines are made and leased by leading companies at rates above what they are worth; so much litigation goes on between rival companies; so much is spent in opposing competing lines (some of which would probably never be proposed, save for the sake of fees to speculative engineers and Parliamentary agents) that capital and profits are both swallowed up, and neither shareholders nor the public derive the advantages to which they are entitled. Besides, we believe the directors defeat the interests of their constituents by charging too high fares, and so check travelling and keep down profits. Excursion-trains pay better than any other class of traffic; and why all trains should not be run at excursion rates, and so tempt customers to the lines, we are at a loss to understand. It is as cheap to run full carriages as empty ones; long trains are not much more expensive than short ones; and it surely is the interest of the companies that all trains should be long and all carriages full.

Then, again, the rates charged for both passengers and goods vary greatly on different lines, without, apparently, any sufficient reason. The working expenses of one line ought not to vary greatly from those of another doing a similar amount of business; and yet very great disparity exists in the charges for traffic. The original cost of railways, of course, is not the same all over the country. Some lines are constructed at a much lower figure per mile than others. But this does not account for the difference of rates charged. Besides, the most costly lines are generally the most profitable, because they run through the most densely-populated districts, and have therefore the largest share of traffic. There may be reasons why travelling on one line should be a fourth or a third more expensive than on another; we do not say there are not; but we do say that such reasons are not apparent, and we shall be glad to see them pointed out. In conclusion, we maintain that there are three things which the public have a right to expect from those who have now a monopoly of the great highways of the country—namely, safety, cheapness, and, as far as possible, uniformity of rates; and these we hope the inquiries of the Royal Commissioners will help to secure.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN AND THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY will, shortly after Easter, leave Windsor Castle for Buckingham Palace, where the Court will remain a fortnight.

PRINCE NAPOLEON has intimated his intention of visiting the Dublin Exhibition, which is to be opened in May next.

THE REV. CHARLES KINGSLEY had the honour of dining with her Majesty a few days ago.

GENERAL SIR JOHN BURGOYNE, G.C.B., is to be appointed to the honorary office of Constable of the Tower and Lieutenant of the Tower Hamlets.

M. MICHELET is writing the "Lives of the Twelve Caesars."

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH has, it is said, sent a most magnificently bound copy of "Cesar" to our Queen.

SIR FREDERICK BRUCE, G.C.B., left town this week to enter on his duties as Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States Government.

A SPLENDID MAUSOLEUM is to be erected to the late Cardinal Wiseman in the cemetery at Kensal-green.

JULES GERARD, the lion-slayer, was, it is now said, murdered and robbed by a native escort. His death by drowning had previously been reported.

LORD CHARLES BRUCE, Liberal, has been returned for North Wilts, in place of Mr. Sootheron-Escourt, resigned. A Conservative was proposed, but did not go to the poll.

SIR RUTHERFORD ALCOCK will probably be appointed to succeed Sir F. Bruce as Envoy Extraordinary at the Court of Pekin.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON has charged M. Jerome, the painter, to draw a figure of Cesar in military costume, to be affixed to the second volume of the "Histoire de Jules Cesar."

A STRIKE is threatened among the operative stonemasons in Manchester and Salford.

GOOD CIDER is now selling in the west of England at three-halfpence a quart.

THE FRENCH PRINCE IMPERIAL has received for the celebration of his birthday the grand cordon of the Danish Order of the Elephant, with a host of other foreign decorations.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA has purchased of the sculptors Lazzarini and Dartha, of Carrara, a life-size statue of Frederick the Great. The price paid was 35,000f., and the work has been placed in the park of Sans Souci.

A NUMBER OF THE BELFAST RIOTERS have been found guilty, and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGES have been sent direct from New York to San Francisco, a distance of nearly four thousand miles, the largest length of wire ever worked over in one circuit. The wires worked well, though it rained at several points on the line.

THE CORPORATION OF LONDON, after an interval of two years, have had a medal struck to commemorate the entry of the Princess of Wales into London on March 7, 1863.

AN OIL-WELL, in Jackson, Michigan, has been sunk 2000ft. It is intended to sink it to the depth of 3000ft. The deepest oil-well at present is 2600ft.

THE EARL OF SHREWSBURY AND TALBOT has placed the palatial halls of Alton Towers at the disposal of the Wedgwood Memorial Committee, for the purpose of an art-exhibition, to be held there in the ensuing autumn, in aid of the funds for the completion of the Wedgwood Institute, at Burslem.

A FIRE of considerable magnitude broke out on the north quay of the East India Docks on Sunday afternoon. An enormous amount of property was destroyed. The fire is attributed to spontaneous combustion.

A LADY who had attended the Federal sick and wounded soldiers in Annapolis hospital died there lately, and, at her request, was buried among the soldiers, with military honours.

THE COUNCIL OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY have determined that all the animals which die in the gardens at Regent's Park shall be dissected, the object being to discover by what diseases they were killed and how their organisation has been affected by captivity and the change of climate.

THE LORDS OF THE TREASURY have ordered the iron buildings at Brompton, popularly known as "the boilers," to be taken down, and, under proper regulations, to be given to the three quarters of London which most require the accommodation of large edifices for exhibitions and other public purposes.

MR. SCARLETT, the British Envoy to Mexico, has arrived at the capital of that country and delivered an autograph letter from her Majesty Queen Victoria recognising the Emperor Maximilian.

THE CREATION OF A NUMBER OF NEW PEERS may, it is said, be expected before the dissolution of the present Parliament. Amongst the gentlemen whose names are freely mentioned are Sir Francis Baring, M.P.; Mr. Somerset Beaumont, M.P.; Mr. Mackinnon, M.P.; and Mr. Henry Herbert, M.P.

WHILE THE PRINCE OF WALES was witnessing the Chertsey steeple-chases, last week, his Royal Highness had his pocket picked of a valuable gold watch, presented to him by the Queen. The police solemn joke is that the thief will henceforth take the title of pickpocket to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

THE AUTHORITIES AT THE WAR OFFICE have given their consent to the Easter volunteer review being held at Brighton; and have issued a request that the commanding officers of regiments that mean to take part in the proceedings should apply, as early as possible, through the Lord Lieutenant of their respective counties.

AN "APOLLO," a head in the best style of Greek art, has been purchased at the Fourtale sale in Paris, for the National Gallery, at the price of 47,000f.

A CANADIAN JOURNAL states, on information which it has reason to believe is correct, that the number of Canadians who have enlisted in the United States army since the beginning of the war is 43,000. Of this number 35,000 were French Canadians, no less than 14,000 of whom have died on the battle-field.

THE KING OF ITALY has invited, through a special deputation, the King of Saxony to be present at the fêtes in honour of Dante, which are to take place at Florence in the month of May. This distinction is addressed not to the Sovereign, but to the man of letters, as King John, when Hereditary Prince, published a translation of Dante, which is highly-esteemed, and a commentary, considered of great merit.

IN THE NEW SPANISH BUDGET, the salary of the Ambassador to the ex-King of Naples is suppressed.

THE PLANET URANUS, which was discovered by Herschel on March 13, 1781, completed its first revolution round the sun on Monday, March 20—that is to say, in eighty-four years and seven hours it came back to that position in the heavens in which it was first seen.

THE KING OF THE BELGIANS has decided on dismantling the fortifications of Ostend, in accord with the Municipal Council. This decision has been received with great joy by the inhabitants, as it will allow them to extend the town beyond its present confined limits.

LORD BROUHAM, according to the last letters received from Cannes, is in remarkably good health. The noble and learned Lord is not expected to leave his château for Paris till the close of the ensuing month, and will, therefore, not be in London before May.

MR. JOHN STUART MILL has consented to allow his name to be put before the electors of Westminster as a candidate for their suffrages. He most distinctly states that he would not undertake any local business nor give pledges as to his conduct in Parliament further than that he should always support the principles he has ever advocated. Lastly, he will incur no expense to secure his own election.

THE COLENSO CASE.—The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council gave judgment, on Monday, in the case between Bishop Colenso, of Natal, and Bishop Gray, of Capetown, who, as his Metropolitan, had deposed him for heresy. The question was whether Bishop Gray had power to do so; and the argument being one of pure law was the reason, probably, why there was no divine joined in the commission. The Lord Chancellor read the judgment, which was a very elaborate one, and came to this—that the Crown had no power to confer ecclesiastical jurisdiction by letters patent simply and without act of the Legislature in a constitutional colony; that the powers assumed by Bishop Gray in virtue of these letters patent were imaginary, his deposition of Bishop Colenso without effect, and his whole proceedings in the matter from beginning to end null and void.

THE STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR.—Hitherto it has been a rule with the British and Spanish authorities in garrison at Gibraltar and the Spanish fortress on the opposite side of the strait to fire at any ship which might approach within cannon-shot while sailing in those waters—a precaution which was rigorously observed, even when merchantmen were driven by the currents, or, in sheer ignorance, happened to commit a breach of this maritime etiquette. The British and Spanish Governments, considering that the original causes which made these regulations a military necessity have now passed away, and that a grave and acknowledged inconvenience may be obviated, have concluded a convention, which was signed on the 2nd inst., whereby these regulations are abolished as regards vessels of the contracting countries.

AMERICAN CODE.—The commissioners appointed by the State of New York to prepare a systematic code of the whole body of the laws of the State have, after eight years' labour, completed their work. The code is divided into three parts—political, civil, and penal; procedure (practice and pleading) was intrusted to a separate commission. The political code declares the political rights and duties of the people, the law concerning its public ways, police, &c., and the local government of counties and towns. The civil code deals with the civil condition of persons, the law relating to property, and the whole subject of obligations. The penal code contains the law of crimes and punishments. The commissioners have suggested such amendments in the existing law as they think expedient; these are mentioned in notes, together with the reasons for proposing an alteration of the law. Among these proposed amendments are laws for securing equal rights to married women in respect to their children and their property, the abolition of dower and curtesy, and a law concerning adoption, giving the substituted parent all the rights and responsibilities of the real one, who, having voluntarily renounced parental rights, is not to be permitted to resume them when the affections have grown into the new relations. The commissioners also propose an assimilation, to the utmost extent possible, of the laws of real and personal property by reducing the law of real estate to the simplicity of personal wherever it can be done without the disturbance of existing rights, establishing for both the same rules of succession. The code includes the common as well as the statute law. The task was difficult; no code of the common law of America or of England had ever before been attempted. It is impossible to foresee all the cases which can arise in the multifarious affairs of men; but the object has been to collect and arrange all the general principles and rules of law, whether hitherto written or unwritten, and express them with care and precision. The code has been circulated among the judges and other competent critics, and revised after their suggestions had been received.

ANCIENT POMPEIAN BRONZES.—Some very remarkable antique works have recently been discovered amid the buried city of Pompeii, and the Italian Government, under whose directions the excavations have been made, have, in the most liberal manner, permitted copies of the works to be made. Two copies of these works are now on view at Mr. Phillips's, of Cockspur-street, and they are calculated to give a very favourable idea of the state of art during the last days of Pompeii. An examination of these works will go far to show that the art at that time was not in that state of decadence which some writers have supposed. The figures now accurately reproduced in bronze, and stained to imitate the antique, are a Narcissus and a Silenus. The former is a most graceful figure, having all the charms of a youthful Apollino, and he is represented as listening to the nymph Echo. The figure is undraped, the limbs are beautifully modelled, and the head and features are of pure classic type. The Silenus is a most masterly work. The broad, stout, muscular figure contrasts in a striking manner with the more graceful outline of the Narcissus. The left arm is held aloft, and the hand firmly grasps the neck of a serpent, the body of which coils round in a circle, and the tail rests upon the left shoulder of the supporting figure. The ring formed by the reptile's body has three acanthus leaves attached to the outer edge, and, with the ring, serves to support a rare basket of fruit, a lamp, or any other suitable article. There is a wonderful expression about the features of the bacchanalian-looking figure; and his broad face, which is somewhat of the negro type, has a self-satisfied grin of content, as though the Silenus were chuckling over the feat which he has accomplished, and which has required all his strength to perform, and all his skill to preserve his steadiness. The legs are spread wide apart to give additional firmness to his position, and the right hand is doubled, having originally, no doubt, held a flagon, or wine-cup. The head is encircled with a wreath of grapes and vine leaves, the delicacy of the modelling of every part of which deserves the highest praise. The figure is partially draped, and the limbs display great muscular power. The discovery of such works as these will not fail to encourage the Italian Government to continue the excavations, which, under the able direction of M. Florelli, have already been attended with such valuable results.

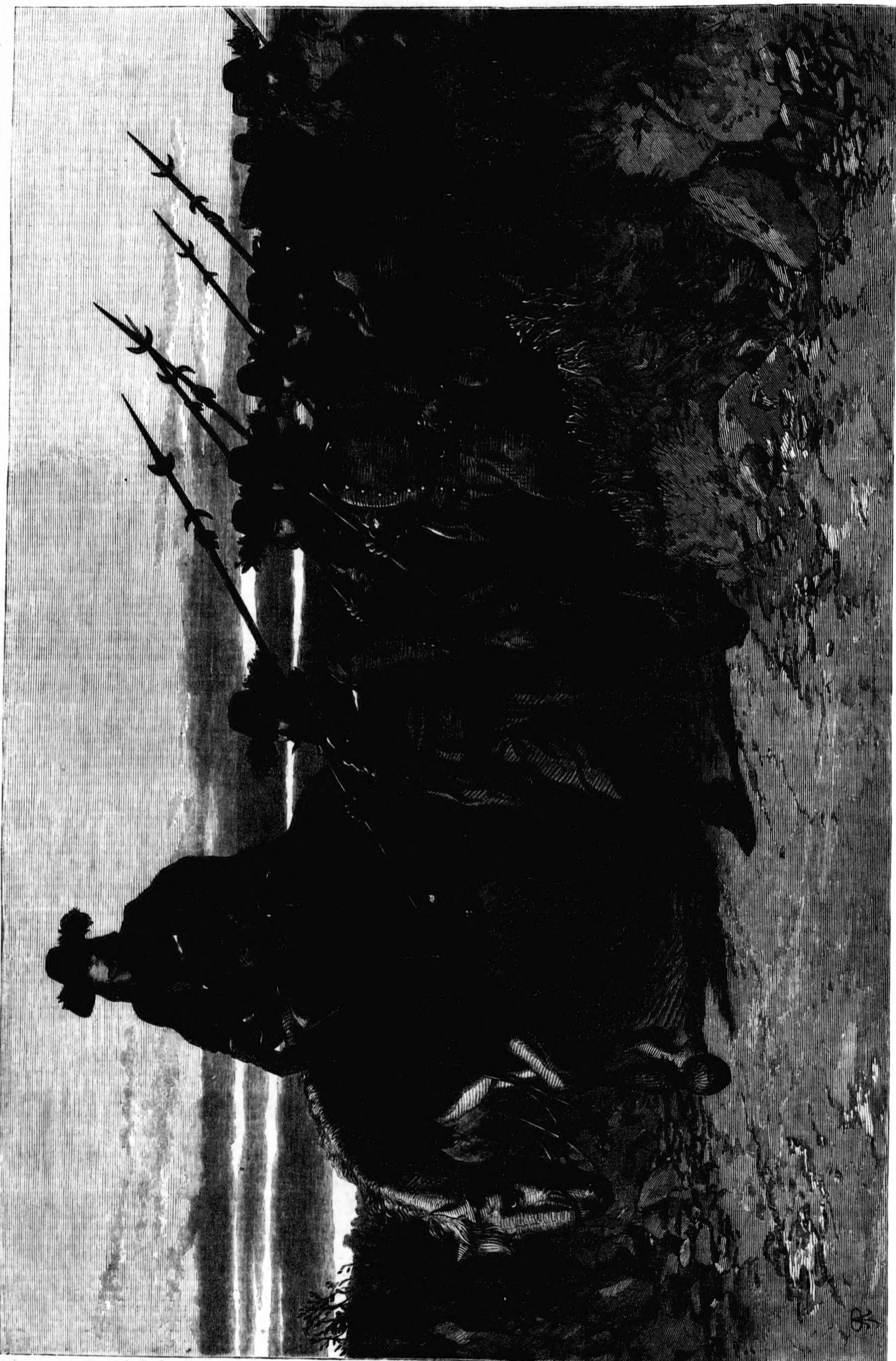
“THE ESCORT.”

WE have already noticed in our Art-column this very striking picture, which is a good example of Mr. Pasquier's best manner, and is itself an evidence of that superior care in drawing which belongs so essentially to the artist accustomed to work on wood, where no effect of colour can compensate for the want of firmness and continuity of line.

It is this vigour and precision which give the work its character; but Mr. Pasquier has not, therefore, neglected the art of colour, and the sombre hues of this picture are managed with a skill which belongs only to the true artist.

Wonderfully suggestive is this “Escort;” silent, reserved, mysterious, as is the party of stern warriors, tramping on as the evening shadows fall and the sun sinks behind the red bars of cloud beyond that solitary expanse of black country. On what mission are they bound? Are they the body-guard of some noble lady about to leave her home in the troublous times which are coming? or do their darkening faces and bent brows denote that they are about to carry a distinguished prisoner to safer keeping, where his partisans may have less influence? It is not treasure which they are bound to protect; for no such determined, earnest looks would come upon men's faces on account of money belonging to other people, unless they meant to seize rather than to guard it. The whole stern party and their leader, too, belong to that time and to those men when principles, or even doctrines more valued than principles, stirred up all the fierce fervour, all the gloomy earnestness, of opposing forces, and each party believed that his sword was that of the Lord and that he was Gideon.

“The Escort” is a picture which, without professing to tell any distinct story, suggests a score of fancies, and makes each one who looks at it his own dreamer of a romance, or, what is better, the spectator of a past and picturesque reality.



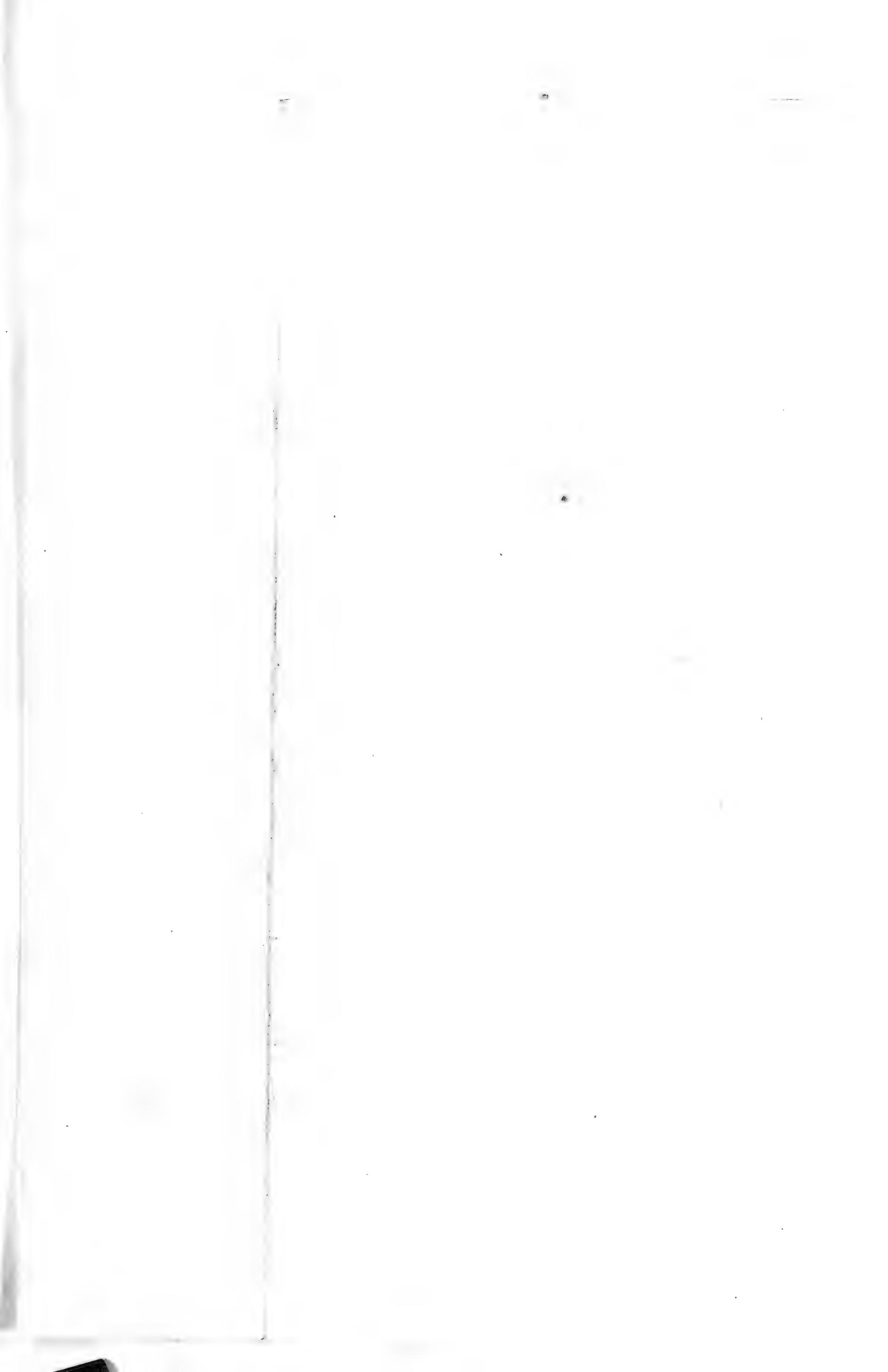
"THE ESCORT."—(FROM THE PICTURE BY J. ABBOTT PASQUER, IN THE DUDLEY GALLERY.)

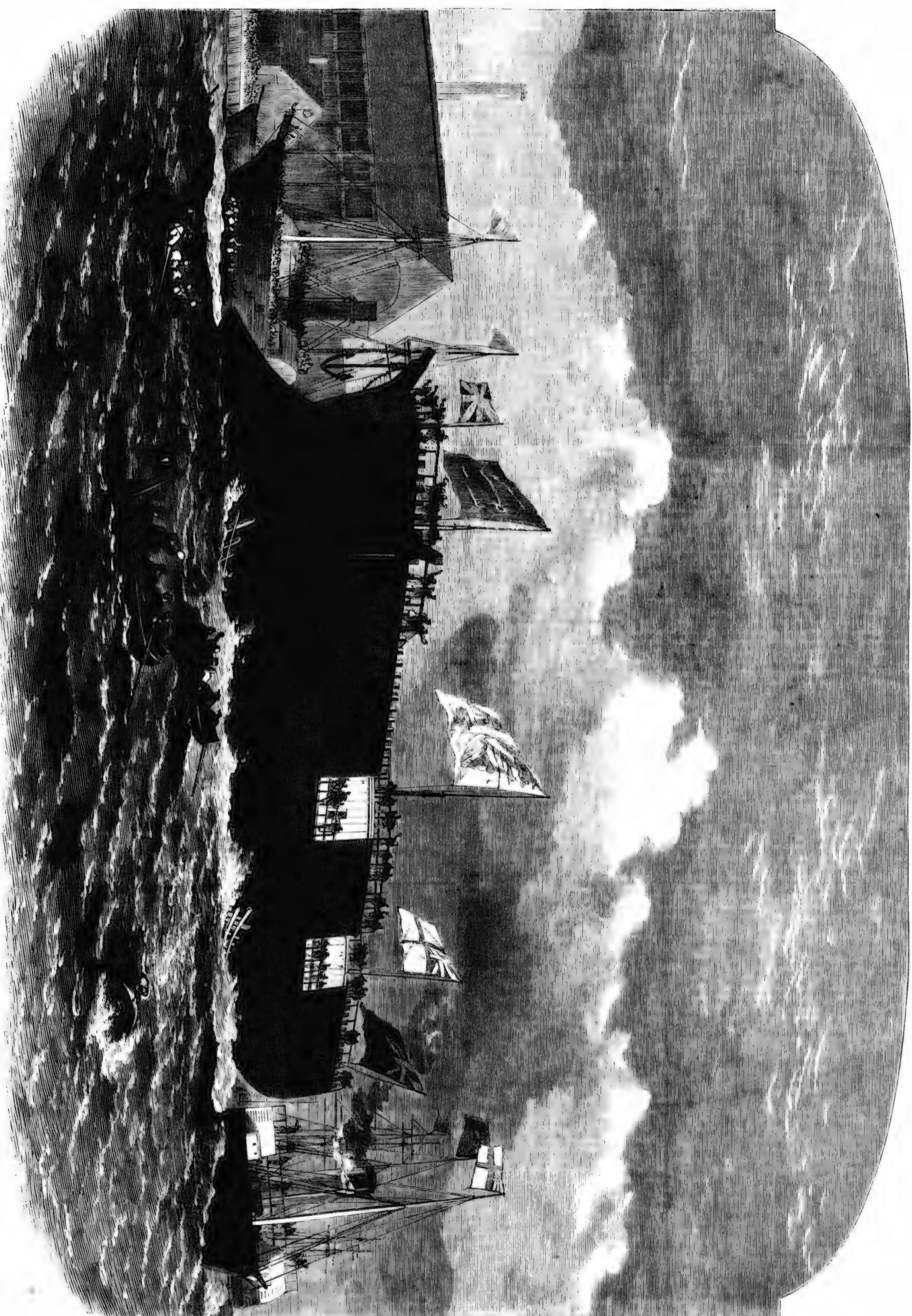




C R O S S I N G T H E B R I D G E : A H U N T I N G P A R T Y R E T U R N I N G F R O M D E E R S T A L K I N G

FROM A PICTURE BY SIR EDWIN LANDSEER.





THE LAUNCH OF H.M. STEAM-CORVETTE PALLAS, AT WOOLWICH DOCKYARD.

LAUNCH OF HER MAJESTY'S SHIP PALLAS.

The launch of her Majesty's ship Pallas, which differs materially from any other hitherto constructed, took place on Tuesday, March 14, from the building slip at Woolwich. The ceremony of "christening" was performed by Mrs. Danlop, wife of the Commodore Superintendent of the yard. The launch, which was directed by Mr. George Furner, the master shipwright, was perfectly successful, and was witnessed by many thousands of spectators, among whom were Viscount Sydenham, Lord Lieutenant of the county; Rear-Admiral Sir Frederick Nicolson, C.B.; Rear-Admiral Dantzig, various members of the Board of Admiralty; Admiral Robinson, Controller of the Navy; Mr. Reed, the Chief Constructor, &c.

The principle on which the Pallas has been constructed is that of an armoured ship of moderate dimensions, to carry a few heavy sheltered guns, and a belt armour to protect the most important parts. She will be capable of steaming with sufficient speed to capture with certainty wooden vessels like the late Alabama, or men-of-war or privateers of much greater speed. She has been made a comparatively short ship, in order that she may be handy under the action of her rudder. She will be full-rigged, so that she may keep the sea for months together. That she may possess sea-going qualities of a high order, she has been made a very lofty ship above the water, the height of her fixed bulwarks being no less than 18 ft. above the level of the sea. Her ends have also been kept as light as possible, to give her that peculiar buoyancy at the bow and stern which Admiral Dacres has reported on so favourably in the Enterprise. Another peculiar feature in the Pallas is that she is constructed for fighting "end on," in the manner lately advocated so strongly. This is not, however, her only mode of fighting, as she will carry two powerful guns, under armour, at each broadside, in addition to two other guns. The Pallas was designed by Mr. Reed early in 1863, but the order to build the ship was not given till the end of that year; so that she has been so far completed in little more than fifteen months. Her armour plates are not yet fitted, nor are her engines on board; but these works will be proceeded with rapidly, and the ship, it is stated, will be got to sea by the end of the present year. The engines made for the ship are of 600 horse power (nominal), on the improved plan introduced by the makers, Messrs. Humphreys and Tennant, and used with much advantage, as regards the saving of fuel, in several ships of the Peninsular and Oriental Company's packets. In consequence of the great power of these engines, Mr. Reed has considered it desirable to introduce a new system of construction at the stern of the ship, for the purpose of enabling the wooden hull to bear without injury the enormous strains which the screw propeller will effect. This system consists in connecting the sternposts and dead-wood with the side, by means of internal iron bulkheads, decks, and flats, and external brass castings of a new description. It appears to be generally considered that iron would have been preferable to wood, which Mr. Reed has adopted in the construction of the Bellerophon at Chatham; but that was not available on account of the want of machinery at Woolwich.

The following are the dimensions of the Pallas:—Length between perpendiculars, 225 ft.; length of keel for tonnage, 187 ft. 8 in.; breadth extreme, 50 ft.; breadth moulded, 48 ft. 1 in.; and breadth for tonnage, 48 ft. 3 in. Depth in hold, 16 ft. 6 in.; burden in tons, 2723 33/4; mean draught of water, 21 ft.; height of ports, 7 ft. 9 in.; distance between ports, 11 ft.; weight of 34-in. armour, 600 tons; weight of guns and powder, 120 tons; and weight of stores and water, 180 tons. She will be a faster vessel, it is stated, than any wooden frigates in the Navy. The fastest wooden frigate now afloat and complete is the Mersey, which on one occasion steamed 18½ knots an hour; but the Mersey is 300 ft. long and of nearly 4000 tons burden. She carries no armour, and the designer of the Pallas has engaged that the latter ship shall exceed the Mersey in speed. When the Pallas was commenced it was the general opinion that it would be impossible to propel so short a ship at so high a rate of speed; but as the building progressed, and the fineness of the lines became apparent, this opinion declined, and many naval men believe that the designer's expectations will really be fulfilled. The Pallas is provided with Mr. Reed's new bow, known as the U bow, on account of its section having the form of that letter, the object of this shape being to correct the pitching tendencies of armour-plated ships. The extremity of the bow or prow, which projects many feet in front of the ship, is armed with an enormous brass cleaver, or ram, intended to penetrate the bottom of any ship against which it may be driven.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS

It was my misfortune last week to have to write about the Birmingham Bank just before Mr. Whately, the solicitor, laid before the creditors a statement of its affairs. This statement clears up much of the mystery which hung over the failure when I wrote. The statement is not very precise, but two or three facts stand out clearly enough. The difficulties of the bank were not originally caused by the Attwoods drawing out capital, but by George Attwood overrawing his account to the amazing amount of £150,000. In 1853 Mr. Spooner determined that this drain should be stopped, and, further, that to liquidate this debt, Attwood should make over his estate to the bank, and, not only his estate, but his stock in the various works which he was carrying on. The estate was worth £167,000. What was got from the stock is not revealed. There is something, too, in the statement about sums of money to be paid out of the estate to Attwood Brothers, under the will of their father, which is not very clear; but this fact stands out prominently: when all was got that could be got from Attwood, he still owed £250,000 to the bank which he could not pay, and, as it would seem, never did pay. Here, though, again we get into a fog. From Mr. Whately's statement, I gather that the bank, in 1853, after all had been got from Attwood that could be got, was insolvent. On the 1st of January, 1852, the two Marshalls joined the bank; but did they bring capital into this insolvent concern? Moreover, we do not learn from the statement whether the bank would have been solvent in 1853 but for the debt of Attwood. If that were so, the bank is nearly £100,000 worse than it was eleven years ago; for the deficit now stands at £342,007. In other words, it has lost nearly £10,000 a year.

Poor old Spooner! How little did men imagine, when they saw him march into the House laughing and chatting, always apparently in good spirits, what a grim skeleton he had in his dark closet! It is surprising that this dreadful secret did not prematurely destroy his life. How often, in his solitary chamber in Manchester-buildings, must the horrible thought, "I owe a quarter of a million more than I can pay," have startled him like a spasm! No wonder that he always stopped in the House till the last, and then seemed loath to leave. Solitude must have been dreadful to him; and yet, as I have said, he always seemed cheerful. Even when he was blind, his spirits, seemingly, never flagged. Well, let us not blame him severely. He ought, no doubt, to have closed the bank in 1853; but he was strong, if not young, then; and he determined to wrestle with the monstrous Python of a debt and destroy it; and, if he had succeeded, a chorus of applause would have greeted his success. But he failed. Year after year the monster enveloped him more closely. In 1860 he lost his wife, with whom he had lived fifty-six years. This was a sad blow to him. He was now left to bear his sorrows alone. But, alas! another trial was awaiting him. After the loss of his wife, his eyes, in which cataracts had made their appearance, gradually closed up, and eventually he became quite blind. Poor old man! Widowed—alone—blind—and that grim skeleton, inexorable as doom and cruel as fate, ever haunting him! Who is there so hard as not to pity him? Let others censure him; I will not. He meant well. At the worst, it was surely a mistake, and not a crime, that he committed; or, if it be adjudged that he sinned, think what he suffered. In 1865—this year—death happily released him from his sorrows.

If I had written about Lord Amberley last week I might have said that he had collapsed and fallen headlong to the earth

never to rise again. But yesterday he was observed of all observers—cheered to the echo; but now,

On all sides, from innumerable tongues,
A di-mal, universal hiss—the sound
Of public scorn,

greets his name. This is what I might have written last week. But I doubted rather that we had got the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. I could scarcely believe that all that fine promise which Lord Amberley had shown was

Rooted in barrenness, where naught below
Of soil supports it.

But it was not so with our politicians at the clubs and the House. There it was implicitly believed that his Lordship had recanted, and was done for ever; and various were the opinions upon the cause of this retrograde move. Some said that Lord Amberley had felt that he had gone too far, and frightened by the noise he had made, had suddenly retreated like a certain naughty boy whom we remember, who chalked "No Popery" upon a wall and then ran away. Others guessed that his father, seeing him about to bolt from the old Whig *via media*, had curbed him up a link or two; whilst a few notable quidnuncs suggested that, Mr. Buller having died, his Lordship contemplated a run for North Devon, and as a preparation had lightened himself of his extreme opinions. But, now we have got fuller reports of the Leeds proceedings. We learn that his Lordship has not recanted at all. He did not object to Baines's bill because it goes too far, but because it does not go far enough. Well; the wisdom of this notion I won't discuss; but here evidently is no recantation—no running away. There is a good story about Lord Derby and his eldest son. "Derby," said one, "I hear that you have not sent a copy of your Homer to Stanley." "No," replied the noble Earl, "nor shall I until I have turned it into prose and printed it in the form of a bluebook."

Lord Brougham is not coming from Cannes to be examined before the Lords' Committee. He has, however, sent a statement, which report says entirely clears him from all complicity in the questionable transaction of Mr. Edmunds. Lord Brougham's conduct to Edmunds was for thirty years that of a father; and the allotment of three fourths of his salary of £100 a year was made voluntarily by him to pay interest for a debt in which Lord Brougham got involved from no fault of his own. "I owe all I have to you," said Edmunds; "I will undertake to pay this." If this be so, why did this man mix Brougham's venerable name up with his own in this sad business?

I don't know how they call those men who inspect the lunatic asylums—whether commissioners, inspectors, or lunatic officers, or what; but I heard a good story about one the other day. He, the Government Inspector (let us say Government Inspector, or I shall not be able to get on), went down to a lunatic asylum to inspect, report, or whatever may be the term for it. He was a very tall fellow, with sandy whiskers, this official. He saw the medical superintendent, and said, "I don't wish to go over the asylum in the usual way; but to mingle with the patients as if I were a—an officer, a surgeon, or even one of themselves. By so doing I shall be better enabled to judge of their intellectual state, and of their progress in the direction of—sanity." "With pleasure," said the doctor; "it is Saturday, and we usually have a dance on Saturday night. If you go into the ball-room, as we call it, you will see them dancing and talking without reserve." "Would it be objectionable if I—a—danced with them?" asked the official. "Not at all," was the reply. The official walked into the ball-room, and, selecting the prettiest girl he saw for partner, was soon keeping up a very animated conversation with her. In the course of the evening he said to the doctor, "Do you know that that girl in the white dress, with blue spots, is a very curious case? I've been talking to her, and I cannot, for the life and soul of me, discover in what direction her mental malady lies. Of course, I saw at once she was mad—saw it in the odd look of her eyes. She kept looking at me so oddly. I asked her if she did not think she was the Queen of England, or whether she had not been robbed of a large fortune by the volunteer movement, or jilted by the Prince of Wales; and tried to find out the cause of her lunacy; but I couldn't, she was too artful." "Very like," answered the doctor. "You see, she is not a patient; she is one of the housemaids, and as sane as you are!" Meantime, the pretty housemaid went to all her fellow-servants and said, "Have you seen the new patient? He's been dancing with me. A fine tall man, and beautiful whiskers; but as mad as a March hare. He asked me if I wasn't the Queen of England; if a volunteer hadn't robbed me of a large fortune; and whether the Prince of Wales didn't want to marry me. He is mad. Isn't it a pity—such a fine young man?"

Another instance of the critical blindness of critics has just appeared. A little paper called "Country Sundays" was printed last week in the *Pall Mall Gazette*. Miss Thackeray wrote it. But as it was signed H. M., the admiring world immediately assigned the paper to Miss Martineau! Now Miss Martineau is probably the very last woman in England to have written "Country Sundays." It is quite foreign to her, both in thought and style.

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The London theatres are really now so active—so many new pieces are brought out in a week and so many revivals are played bi-weekly and tri-weekly—that you will soon have to contract with a steam Lounger. Two men manufactured of mere ordinary flesh and blood are unequal to the work. However, I will endeavour to struggle through my herculean task with my usual assiduity.

"Romeo and Juliet" has been played during the week at DRURY LANE. That truly great artiste, Helen Faucit, appearing as Juliet, Mr. Montgomery as Romeo, Mr. Walter Lacy as Mercutio, and Mr. Henry Marston as Friar Lawrence. Milton's "Comus" is to be revived with extraordinary splendour on Easter Monday. The carpenters, scene-painters, and the gifted Dykwynkyn are preparing it now.

A new farce, from the practised pen of Mr. Maddison Morton, is in rehearsal at the ADELPHI. Its title is "The Steeplechase; or, In The Pigskin." By the time that these lines are in print it will have been played.

Time and space compel me to defer my account of Mr. Boucicault's new piece, "Arrah-na-Pogue," until next week; and, while apologising for postponement, I may as well mention that the amateur performance at the Bijou Theatre will also be mentioned in the same number.

A new farce, by Mr. Roberts, called "The Three Furies," was produced last week at the ST. JAMES'S; and on the same night, and by the same author, another new farce, called an "Ample Apology," was brought out at the PRINCESS'S.

Mr. Fechter, I am sorry to say, has not recovered.

A new drama, by Mr. Craven is in rehearsal at the STRAND. And now for the event of the week—the production of Mr. Watts Phillips's "New Sensation in Three Spasms" (I quote the playbill), entitled the "Woman in Mauve," at the HAYMARKET. The first scene is laid in an artist's studio in Chelsea. Frank Jocelyn (Mr. Sothern), a young painter of excitable temperament and nervous fancy, is discovered seated in what might be called a bath of moonlight, reading Mr. Wilkie Collins's romance of the "Woman in White." At a crisis in the narrative he is startled by the appearance of a lady in mauve (Miss Edith Stuart), who wildly demands of him, if he would save a human life, the key of his garden-gate. The astonished artist cannot find the key. The lady supplicates; a pistol-shot is heard; the lady screams, and vanishes. Frank rushes into the garden (which leads on to the Thames) after her, and finds her, in a swoon, upon the lifeless body of a young naval officer. She recovers consciousness; footsteps are heard; Frank covers the body with the lady's scarf, and, seizing the lady, drags her upon a vacant pedestal, where he assumes the attitude of Virginius slaying his daughter. A policeman, named Beetles (Mr. Compton), and a number of water-side men come on, and either do not notice the figures or take them for statues—a supposition their stone-coloured clothes and the glaring moonlight strongly favour. Here is sensation, with a vengeance! The next act takes place at Chamonix. Frank is

"doing" Switzerland in the company of his sweetheart's brother, Lancelot Harvey (Mr. Howe). Here he encounters Beetles and his wife, Mrs. Beetles (Mr. Buckstone), who, having had property left him, and being about to open a restaurant in Leicester-square, are making a tour in order that they may perfect themselves in the habits of their future customers. The Woman in Mauve also crosses his path, and invites an interview near some mediæval ruins close to a moss-covered well. Frank—who is romantic to a degree when only his fancy is engaged, but is realistic in the extreme in the actualities of life—reluctantly attends her summons. She commences a sentimental story, but, alarmed by the inopportune appearance of her jealous husband the Count (Mr. W. Farren), suddenly starts up and accidentally pushes Frank down the moss-covered well, upon which her husband quickly puts the lid, and, standing upon it, says "Let well alone!" The third act occurs in Rome. Frank, rescued from the well by the active and intelligent Beetles, and thoroughly sick of sensation, is quietly pursuing his vocation; but the Woman in Mauve is still upon his track. Her husband insists on fighting him, and an Arkansas duel is fought in the ruins of the Coliseum. The Count fires his revolver, and Frank leaps from the upper portion of the ruins; but nobody is hurt. Everything is then explained. The young naval officer, who had been betrothed to the Countess, was not mortally wounded, and his romantic desire to see her for a moment, even when she was, as the love-songs say, "another's," led to all the mischief. The young officer has a twin brother, and the two were dressed and got up to resemble the Davenport Brothers. Lucy Harvey arrives upon the scene, and all the characters speak an epilogue in verse, in which they show that the purport of the drama has been to exhibit the evils of sensation and to ridicule alike sensation dramas and sensation novels. As will be seen by this necessarily brief account, ordinary criticism of the piece is out of the question. It is intentionally of the wildest extravagance. Everything occurs in exactly the opposite manner to the way it could occur in real life, and surprise is heaped upon surprise. The incidents are meant to be unnatural, and succeed in their object. No explanations are made; and the highest compliment that can be paid to its author is that his plot and its treatment are in the highest degree improbable. *Place aux dames!* Miss Edith Stuart, a stranger to the Haymarket, made the most of a part which, for a heroine, is not so important as it should be. Her appearance was picturesque in the extreme, and her long flowing hair is of a colour that, for want of a name to express its luxuriant beauty, I must call *en couleur Edith*. Mr. Buckstone, as Mrs. Beetles, wore extraordinary costumes, and exploited that racy and genial humour which could not and should not be suppressed, even by crinoline. Mr. Compton was the most dignified, dogmatic, and official of policemen. His laugh sounded like a tap from a truncheon; his smile shone with the lurid light of a bull's-eye. Altogether, his appearance and manner would have rejoiced the heart of Sir Richard Mayne. Mr. Farren was the sternest, politest, and most implacable of jealous husbands. Mr. Howe played a small part well; and Miss Lovell looked as Miss Lovell always does—charmingly. Mr. Sothern's performance of the hero was artistic and finished in every look, gesture, and syllable. Not even the intentional impossibility of the situations or language given him by his author for a moment disturbed the quiet earnestness, naturalness, and unobtrusiveness of his voice and manner. It was a finished specimen of the art of acting. One of the chief charms of this admirable comedian is his "dressing." No matter how costumed, he invariably looks *used* to his clothes. There is no appearance of having just left the bandbox or the dressing-room. His "get up" as a pre-Raphaelite artist—long, light hair, blonde moustache, and all—was perfect. The scenery, by Messrs. O'Connor and Morris, elicited the warmest applause from a crowded audience. "The Woman in Mauve" has evidently been produced regardless, not only of expense, but time, care, thought, and trouble. At the conclusion of the piece, when, in obedience to the acclamations of the house, the curtain rose upon the dramatis personæ, Mr. Buckstone surprised the house by stating that certain parties had entered into a conspiracy to hiss the piece. The audience cried out loudly, "Name! name!" but no answer was given. There certainly were during the performance some few sibilations, perhaps proceeding from people who expected comedy or drama, and who did not understand that a "Sensation in Three Spasms" was, like Sheridan's "Critic," to be judged, not by ordinary rules, but upon inverse principles. Who is this managerial *beau noisir*, who, like the First Napoleon, half a century ago,

Made the quartier loaf and Luddites rise,
And filled the butchers' shops with large blue flies!

The author of "The Woman in Mauve" has written a very original and effective piece; but, while abusing sensation, he has very artfully availed himself of all its attractions, on the principle of the old six-bottle man, who always counselled his sons to avoid liquor with the same breath that he ordered his butler to open the fourth bottle, and said, "I, my boys, am a fearful example of the ruin brought upon a man by the habitual use of strong drinks."

A most curious instance of constant misquotation occurs in the play of "The Stranger" as performed for many years past at our theatres. Even now Miss Lavenu sings—

I have a silent sorrow here,
A grief I'll ne'er reveal,
I hear no sigh, I shed no tear,
But it consumes my heart.

Of course, the last word of the second line should be "impair."

INTERESTING DISCOVERY.—In the course of some alterations in the Wolsey Chapel at Windsor Castle, some highly coloured paintings were recently discovered behind stone slabs. On thoroughly removing three of the slabs from the panels in which they had been inserted, full-length portraits of as many Knights of the Garter were found painted on the wall, with strong iron bars in front of each picture. The Knights are represented as attired in the military costume of the order, with cloaks decorated with the Garter insignia, and capped with helmets. Should the rest of the stone slabs be removed (of which there must be upwards of twenty) the panels behind them will, no doubt, be found covered with the remainder of the series of portraits.

A TURKISH TRAGEDY.—A great tragedy is reported from Sentari. An Arab slave in the house of Annet Effendi had been promised his freedom, but, at the suggestion of the Effendi's wife, the time for granting it was postponed. Sullen and incensed at this delay, the slave took advantage of the absence of his master and the whole of the household—except the hanum and himself—at mosque, to enter the harem, and deliberately strangled his mistress. The cunning savage then hastened to meet his master, whom he encountered at the mosque door, and told out loudly that he had done his bidding in murdering his mistress. Accompanied by the police and many other persons, the Effendi hurried home, and, on entering the harem, truly enough found the corpse of his murdered wife. The slave then asked his master's thanks for having so well executed his bidding. Upon this charge the bereaved Effendi was taken prisoner by the police, and remained in the common prison till the authorities had fully investigated the tragic affair.

THE STREETS OF LONDON.—The Registrar-General recently called attention to the deplorable condition of the London streets. The monthly report of the medical officer of health for Marylebone contains the following remarks on the same subject:—"A feature in parochial management not yet realized, but greatly needed, is the adoption of some efficient system of cleansing our streets and thoroughfares. The sanitary advantages to be derived from dry pavements and well-swept crossings cannot be overrated. How many hundreds of ill-clad and badly-shod pedestrians catch cold from wet feet and damp exhalations, and thus lay the foundation of fatal pulmonary disease! What a large amount of falling strength among the infirm and aged is expended in toiling through the thick, tenacious mud that gives to London an unenviable notoriety which might otherwise be harboured for useful and profitable labour! and how incessant is the work imposed upon poor industrious women with large families, who, appreciating the blessings of cleanliness in their humble dwellings, strive, but strive in vain, against the all-pervading dirt and mire! A liberal and judicious expenditure in this department would surely prove a wise economy, a saving in health alone, irrespective of all other considerations, which, if estimated merely at its money value, would suffice to pay back the additional outlay ten times over. It is to be deplored that, with the local powers possessed by the parishes and districts of this metropolis, so great a defect in our sanitary arrangements should be permitted to exist. The streets, markets, and public places of Paris are models of cleanliness. There the channels are washed twice a day, and every morning, before the inhabitants are stirring, every particle of dirt

OUR FEUILLETON

THE BESIEGED FOREST LODGE.

I.—THE EDICT.

The German peasant, if he only gets the chance, will carry his onslaughts against everything in the shape of game from the first day of January to the last day of December in each year; he recognises no time of repose. As he says, he himself has no rest the whole year through, but is obliged to moil and toil; "and why should beasts be better off than men?"

It was from this especial point of view that sporting was practised, or more correctly speaking, abused, during the famous year of revolutions, 1848. Throughout the forests of Germany were innumerable head of game that had been brought down in mere wantonness, and left to rot, together with scores of poor bucks, which had been shot dead, and whose carcasses infected the air. The foxes had a good time of it, for there was enough and to spare for them; while the very ravens turned away in disgust from the over-abundant garbage.

The reason of this was, that orders had been promulgated by the various provisional governments to the effect that all the game on the State domains was to be shot down without delay. Most of the keepers obeyed these orders, or rather went beyond them, and, out of pure hatred to the peasants, and to avoid leaving them a single head of game, waged a furious war in their own preserves as the peasants themselves, still more exasperating the latter, who said, with justice, "If the keepers pay no attention to close-time, why should we?" Others again, though these were few, obeyed the order only when absolutely compelled—shooting down a certain number of game to prove, as it were, their obedience, but sparing and protecting the rest, in secret, to the best of their ability.

As yet but little affected by the troubles surging around him, there lived in the — Forest, which was in a tolerably remote district, the keeper Haller, an old acquaintance of the reader's.

He had certainly heard of the revolution which had broken out in the country, and seen more than pleased him at Hulsen, the nearest town; but he had only withdrawn the closer to his lodge in the forest, so as to come into contact as little as possible with the people of the town. His beaters, who earned good wages the whole year in the forest, and most of whom were married men, had, with few exceptions, proved faithful, and remained with him. He did not, in fact, at all believe in the success of a regular insurrection, and wondered that the hubbub continued so long, until he at last received from the head ranger's office, through his own superiors, the order, "Shoot down all the game there is."

This was in the month of May, and the command did not even reach him in the usual manner; but a rough-looking young fellow, who, moreover, carried a rusty old single-barrelled gun, slung arrogantly at his back, brought it. It certainly bore the official seal.

The first thing Haller did was to take away the gun from the messenger, in spite of his abuse, and kick him out of doors. He then gave his two assistants, Herr von Beiwitz and Brommer, a young forester of the neighbourhood, strict orders not to fire a single shot at the game, and to treat as a poacher everyone they met in the forest with a gun in his hand.

"But, my very worthy Sir," said Herr von Beiwitz, shrugging his shoulders in an embarrassed manner, "you surely do not wish to set yourself up in opposition to your superior officers? If I am not mistaken, my father has himself signed this order, which he certainly would not have done had he not had pressing reasons for so doing."

"Your father, my worthy Herr von Beiwitz," said the honest keeper, with a face red with anger, "may be a most excellent member of the forest board; but I myself must be allowed to select my own course with regard to the game. It was intrusted to me by my Sovereign; and may I perish if I fail to do my best to preserve it, despite of all the tag-rag-and-boobtail in the country!"

"But, my most worthy Sir, *contre la force*."

"Oh! go to Jericho with your French," said the excited sportsman, in whose eyes even his superior officers had by their last order fallen into discredit. "We are still Germans, and, I hope, shall always remain Germans, although those villains down the country are kicking up a most awful row. If the game in the forest here is really to be slaughtered in this manner, you may first blow my brains out; but as long as I have any authority not a gun shall be fired by my men at the game, but only at those blackguards who would kill it."

Here the master rested. Herr von Beiwitz shrugged his shoulders, and then stuck his glass in his eye to read the order, which was lying open on the table. The keeper had left the room, having first snatched his fowling-piece from the wall, and rushed, in a state of great indignation, into the wood.

"We shall expose ourselves to a vast deal of inconvenience if we do not obey the order," said Herr von Beiwitz, after having read the important document and laid it down again on the table. "The fact of our worthy friend the keeper having kicked the young fellow out of doors, too, will excite the people all the more against him; and we subordinates shall, in consequence, be placed in a state of painful embarrassment with everyone."

"We? How so, I should like to know?" said Brommer, who always had a cold, and consequently spoke a little through his nose. He was standing close to the window, drumming on the panes with his fingers, and only half turned round as he addressed his colleague. "What have we to do with it?"

"Whom are we to obey?" continued Beiwitz.

"Whom? Why, the keeper, of course; who, by-the-way, is the only sensible person in the whole lot," said the sturdy young fellow. "What have we to do with a set of quill-drivers?"

"My dear Brommer"—

"It's all humbug, even though your father is one of them. The gentlemen who can order a sportsman to shoot down game in May know nothing about sporting, even though they had any number of green coats, with oak-leaves, and hunting-horns, and goodness knows what!"

"Be that as it may," said Herr von Beiwitz, evasively, "how about the parish authorities? If the order is once issued they will insist on its being carried out. Stags and roes have trodden down the farmers' crops, and do so still."

"That is the farmers' lookout," exclaimed Brommer. "It would be a fine idea for us to trouble our heads as to whether they had a few blades of corn trodden down or not. Besides, if even the keeper himself ordered me to kill the dams and their young, may I be shot if I would do so!"

"But if they should compel us?"

"Compel us! Who shall compel us? If the city gentlemen should take it into their heads to go out shooting themselves at this season—though I hope they have too much shame left to do that—leave me to see that nothing comes in the way of their guns. As for the peasants, I would kindly advise them to keep out of the preserves, otherwise we shall not be friends over long. They may exercise and strut about down yonder as much as they choose, only do not let them show themselves here, unless they wish to get a charge of swan-shot in their backs!"

Under the idea that he had fully exhausted the subject, Brommer seized his cap, left the room, and went out into the forest, as the keeper had done. Meanwhile Herr von Beiwitz took the order from off the table and once more read it through.

II.—THE POACHERS.

Haller was in a very discontented frame of mind, and had, moreover, every reason to be so. What sportsman who cared for his game would not have been? The report of firearms in every direction, without cessation day or night, angered him, and rendered it impossible to keep anything like a proper watch. At the same time, the peasants were hunting about in the copse and brushwood belonging to the Government forests. On finding himself alone in the wood, he threw himself on the ground under an old oak, and reflected over what was taking place around and on the order which he had just received.

For a good hour he lay thus silently brooding under the wide-spreading branches, while all kinds of bold ideas flashed through his brain. At one time he thought of resigning his situation, in order no longer to be a witness of this wretched state of things. But then where was he to go with his family? He could very well make his own way in the world, but what was to become of his wife and his two children? Could he leave them by themselves in a land where order and law seemed to be for a while suspended, even supposing they had enough to live on? America! that, after all, was the only alternative, if nothing could be done in Germany. America! Thousands were going thither, and, wherever they went, he, too, could live, even from the chase alone, if necessary. Yes, that was an alternative—a means of escape from the strange state of affairs at home to which he for one could not make up his mind. What cared he about the Parliament and the cry of freedom which resounded throughout the land if people wanted to compel him to shoot down his own game? It that was the freedom to which they referred, he, at least, would have nothing to do with it.

No! He was at last firmly resolved. If they drove him to extremities at home he would go to America. God's sun shone and God's forests grew there as well as in Germany; there was bread and game, too, there, and he had no reason to fear starvation.

All at once he felt lighter about the heart. His indefinite fear for the future, and of an uncertain existence, and his anxiety for his family, vanished at that one word—America. The consciousness of not being left at home, subject to the favour or disfavour of any one who might happen to become a member of the Government; the feeling of an inward independence which, in case of need, could find a home elsewhere, encouraged and consoled him.

Nevertheless, how painful must this separation be to him who truly loves his native land, and has thousands and thousands of ties which bind him by his heart's best fibres to the soil! Even the keeper felt thoughts such as these quiver through his brain as he sat under the old oak and allowed his eye to range over the young forest, which was indebted chiefly to him for its fresh growth. What would become of his forest, the trees of which he and his father had planted, cherished, and tended? What would become of the poor game if he abandoned it to the care of the gentlemen of the pen and to the rabbles?

"Accursed pack!" he muttered to himself, his anger returning simultaneously with the recollection of that unsettled state of things which threatened to drive him from Germany, "do yonder just whatever you choose; bellow and screech, or commit any other folly you please, but keep out of my forest; for if ever a confounded blackguard from among your lot!"

He sprang like lightning from where he was sitting, for the report of a gun re-echoed through the woods, and was immediately followed by a second.

"There they are!" muttered the keeper through his clenched teeth. "That shot was fired, as sure as I am a living man, in my preserve, and the scoundrels observe Sunday no more than they do rutting time. But wait a little, my fine fellow, I'll mark that up to your account. The gun must have been fired in the Fox-gorge. You can't get through the thick wood to the right, and on the left is the open path. I may catch you after all."

Without bestowing another thought on what had been worrying him, and with no object in view but that of apprehending the poacher, Haller sprang down the slope, and, taking a small path which had been made through the nearest copse for the convenience of the hunters, and cut off a corner which the copse formed, he reached in a short time the place where he supposed the poacher would be found.

The first thing on which his eye rested, as soon as he could see across the glade which lay before him, was a fawn, standing on an open spot, and, as it appeared, looking anxiously back into the pines. At about eighty paces' distance a peasant, in red breeches and shirt sleeves, was creeping, under cover of a slight rise in the ground, towards the fawn, and holding in his hand a long duck-gun.

The keeper's first impulse was to spring over the short intervening space, and, while the fellow was watching the startled fawn, cut off his retreat. Scarcely, however, had he advanced three or four steps over the glade before, about fifty paces distant, he saw a second poacher, who had just finished regularly flaying a roe he had shot, spring up from the ground. But the second poacher saw Haller quite as quickly; for, catching up his gun and springing behind a beech-tree, which stood by itself, he hallooed out, "Halt, or I fire!"

"Fire, you scoundrel!" cried the keeper, all his former rage returning at what he saw. "But the moment you venture out from behind your cover I'll fill your bones with lead."

While speaking thus, Haller, in his turn, had sprung behind a tree, and made ready to fire.

"Halloo! Gottlieb!" cried the last peasant to his comrade on the slope; "Come here, and drive that green-coated fellow round the tree, so that I may have a shot at him; the curmudgeon wants to bullet me."

"Wait a minute, you scoundrel," said the other, from where he was, "we will spoil your game for you. Just keep him there a moment, Hans, I shall soon be down."

Immediately the keeper had emerged from the copse, the fawn had sprung forward some twenty paces, and then stood still. But now, on perceiving another enemy so near, it fled with rapid leaps over the brow of the rise, while the peasant, paying no further attention to the animal, ran down to the assistance of his comrade, who was threatened by Haller.

"If you come near me, you thief, I will shoot you dead, as true as that I trust reason will not desert me in my last moments," cried Haller to him.

"Our guns will go off as well as yours," exclaimed the peasant, whom his comrade had called Hans, and, while still speaking, he fired. Simultaneously with the report, Haller heard a ball pass close over his head, and bury itself in the bark of the tree behind which he was standing, while some buckshot whistled by his ear, and a prickling pain darted through his shoulder. Almost immediately after the report, however, and before he could touch his trigger, there was another report at no great distance, and the peasant who had shot at him suddenly sprang from behind the tree, and, throwing down his gun, exclaimed,

"Merciful Powers, merciful Powers! I am hit!"

As yet Haller himself did not know whence the shot fired for his benefit had come. He saw however, that his nearest foe was rendered harmless; while the other, who had by this time approached to within about fifty paces, turned round, and, troubling his head very little about his wounded comrade, reascended the slope. The keeper, who was in an excited state of mind, could not resist such a maul as that before him: the broad, light, back portion of the yellow leather breeches looked too tempting. He hastily pressed his gun against his shoulder and fired. Immediately afterwards the peasant, who was running away up the glade, sprung high in the air. He, too, let fall his gun, and, bellowing loudly, placed his hand on the injured part. He did not, however, stop long; for he had scarcely observed a second forester, who had made his appearance on the scene of action, spring down the eminence, and who, without saying a word, or uttering a sound, was running after him, than he all at once forgot his pain, and, as if pursued by the Evil One, flew along the glade, and disappeared over the brow of the hill.

Meanwhile, the other peasant had fallen to the ground, and was bleeding copiously. Haller went up and tried to raise him, but the man did not move; the charge had entered under his upraised arm, the left side, where ten or twelve shots had wounded some vital parts. When Brommer, who had arrived so opportunely to Haller's assistance, returned to the spot, the man stretched himself out once more—and died.

"Humph!" said the keeper, who had remained by him, scratching his head. "Now we are in for it! The blackguards will kick up no small row when they hear we have dispatched one of them."

"Would you have had me wait until the scoundrel had shot you down with his second barrel?"

"No, Brommer; you did quite right," said Haller, seriously; "and, in all probability, I owe you my life; for the fellows are

capable of anything. Well, I hope they will be frightened, and take this as an example and a caution. Should such, however, not be the case," he continued, gloomily and threateningly, "why, then, deuce take it! we must look out for ourselves, and 'tis better to be shot down in the greenwood than allow ourselves to be ill-treated or led by the nose by such rabble."

"What are we to do with the body?" inquired Brommer, casting a timid glance at the dead man. The feeling that he had shot a human being asserted its authority over him, and he would undoubtedly have given a good deal could he have annulled all that had taken place.

"What are we to do with it?" said the keeper, "why we will just leave it where it is. His people are sure to fetch it away. If we tried to drag it off to the ranger's we should have the whole pack of wolves after us this evening. But we will take the doe and the two guns, for they belong to us. A set of murderers, to shoot a poor roe with her fawn by her side! no wonder they fire so unconcernedly at a human being. It is almost the same."

"Shall we clean the doe here?"

The keeper looked, undecidedly, first at the doe and then at the dead man.

"No," he said, after a short pause, "I think not. There is blood enough here already, and the place—. Can you carry it on your shoulders?"

"Certainly I can."

"Very well, then. I will take the two guns, and we will go straight home. How the fellow yonder rubbed his yellow leather breeches! I think I have spoilt his sitting down for the next fortnight. Where is his gun, though?"

"Up there, beside the young beech that stands by itself, near yonder clump of yellow oak," said Brommer, busied in scraping as well as he could with his hanger the blood from the doe's coat. "But I think we had better load again."

"What has happened caused me to forget that altogether," said the keeper, stopping, and charging his piece afresh. Brommer followed his example. He then took off his coat, and, turning it inside out, hoisted the doe on his shoulders; while the keeper, with the gun of the dead man in his hand, descended the slope towards the spot indicated, to get the other gun as well.

Further up the glade the foresters met again, and then proceeded in silence, side by side, along one of the narrow paths which led to the lodge.

It was not until he was quite near the lodge that the keeper felt a pain in his shoulder, and remarked that he must have been bleeding pretty freely. In the state of excitement in which he had hitherto been, he had not at first paid any attention to the circumstance, and afterwards had not thought about it. All of a sudden a peculiar feeling of faintness came over him. A thousand sparks seemed to dance before his eyes, and he felt giddy. He was, indeed, compelled to put down the guns and seat himself under a tree to avoid fainting altogether.

Brommer, in dismay, threw down the doe and took off Haller's coat. Two buckshots had hit him. One had passed through the buckle of his braces, which seemed to have broken its force, and penetrated slightly into the upper part of the keeper's breast. This appeared now to pain him most. The other had struck against a rib, and, winding round it, passed out through the skin at his back. The blue streak was plainly visible under the skin; and this was the wound which, owing perhaps to some small vein having been injured, had bled so freely.

Fortunately, there was a spring close at hand, and Brommer fetched a handful of water for the keeper. A good draught, and the application of some of the cool liquid to his forehead and temples, refreshed him so much that, after a short rest, he was enabled to resume his walk.

In this fashion they reached the lodge, where Herr von Beiwitz met them, and was immediately plunged into a state of great alarm.

"Halloo! what is the matter?" he exclaimed, in surprise, on seeing the two men arrive with the doe and the two guns. "Confound it! I could almost fancy —. Heavens! My worthy Sir, you look as pale as death. I hope you have not?"

"It is nothing of any consequence, Herr von Beiwitz, I thank you," said the keeper. "Down in the forest yonder lies one who is much paler."

"For Heaven's sake! you surely have not?"

"I have, though," said Brommer, quietly. "But, pray be kind enough not to kick up any row. Frau Haller will hear of it quite quickly enough—since, I suppose, she must hear it."

"And is he dead?" stuttered out Von Beiwitz, with a timid glance at Brommer.

"He will not shoot any more does," said the latter, quietly.

"The deed is done now; and I do not see why I should pull a wry face in consequence."

"Father! dinner, dinner!" cried Carl, the keeper's eldest son, who came running out of the house when he heard the dogs bark. "Mother has kept the soup waiting for you."

"Tell her we will come directly, my boy. But we must wash first," said the keeper, suppressing his feelings as much as possible, so as not to cause his wife too great a shock. "I hurt myself a little as I came along, and will just put on a little sticking-plaster."

"You look very white in the face, father!"

"Nonsense! Why should I look white?" muttered the keeper.

"What, a doe! in May?" suddenly exclaimed the little fellow, on seeing the animal lying on the ground. "I am sure some of those peasants shot it. We heard the shots up here."

The keeper made him no answer, but went into the house. He would fain have concealed his wounds from his wife and have bound them up himself. But that was not possible. As soon as he passed from the fresh air into the warm room he again turned giddy, and would have fallen had not Herr von Beiwitz, who accompanied him, caught hold of him and led him to the sofa.

Actuated by the kindest intentions, but as clumsy as it is possible to conceive in carrying them out, the young man now informed the keeper's wife of the indisposition of her husband. The poor woman was nearly killed with fright, and did not become easy in her mind until it was found that the wounds were not severe and certainly not dangerous. The piece of lead still remaining in the upper part of Haller's breast was at last, after several unsuccessful attempts, extracted by Brommer with the point of his hanger. The wounds were then properly washed and bound up, and the keeper, overcoming his momentary weakness, insisted on sitting down to dinner with the rest.

It was no use keeping secret any longer what had happened, since Frau Haller would have heard it from some other quarter in a distorted form, and therefore Brommer related the facts very simply. He had gone out, in a somewhat different direction, after the keeper, into the forest, and had been attracted, by hearing the report of firearms, to the spot, which he reached just in time to save his superior. He was certainly sorry at present, he said, that he's at the fellow, and it would have been better, perhaps, if he were still alive. It was, however, what the fellow had to expect, and he had deserved it, and what was done could not be undone.

(To be continued.)

THE DISPUTE IN THE IRON TRADE.—The lock-out in the iron districts still continues. Two firms, however, in the neighbourhood of Wolverhampton reopened their works on Tuesday. Messrs. Foster & Co., of Wednesbury, have also agreed to reopen their works on condition of the men giving a guarantee not to aid the North Staffordshire potters. This proposal has been agreed to by both by Messrs. Foster's own men and the union executive. In other quarters, however, the men, anticipating a long struggle, are, it is said, organising an emigration movement on a large scale. A meeting of trades' delegates was held, on Wednesday evening, at the Swan Hotel, Bouverie-street, London, to consider the lock-out in the iron trade. Mr. G. Potter again presided. Deputations from North and South Staffordshire and from Gashouse were present. One of the speakers did not hesitate to recommend the North Staffordshire men to go in and thus end the lock-out; submitting at the same time their case to arbitration. A resolution to this effect was carried, so that there is a prospect now of the lock-out being terminated. It was voted that, among others, Lord Elcho and Lord Stanney had offered their services as arbitrators.

renowned Forest Creek. An eye-witness who was at that time making a geological tour in that part of the colony says:—"With some difficulty I found out the spot indicated; it was a wild, secluded little rocky glen in the heart of the thickly-wooded ranges on the west side of Mount Alexander. I found there two or three tents and a cradle. Two quartz veins had been tried, and some fragments which had been struck off with a hammer, containing visible specks of gold, lay on the ground near one of them. Nobody was at work here; for the men had gone to procure provisions at the nearest township, which was about twenty miles off. Women were taking care of the tents." Such were the feeble beginnings of a movement which was destined shortly to attract thousands to the Australian shores, to carry off the surplusage of British labour, to give an impetus to the trade of the world, and to be the grand agent of carrying European civilisation into the land of the South Pacific. This spot was known afterwards as Specimen Gully, and the gold was found by the shepherd Wylie, who, hearing that it was to be seen in quartz had gone to "The Mount." At the end of the month gold was also found at Bendigo, and thus, within four months from the rocking of the first cradle, the three richest gold-fields in Victoria and the world were discovered by the few British dwellers in the bush.

Imagine what must have been the effect of these discoveries on the these, passing over into the neighbouring valley of Forest Creek to search there for auriferous veins, accidentally lighted on an alluvial deposit, where, to their surprise, they found that the precious metal was to be obtained more readily and more abundantly than by breaking up the quartz. A month afterwards Forest Creek was alive with diggers, and the Columbine River, went mad at the news, and the fever set in so violently that the very existence of the colony was threatened.

For ages this great district—inhabited only by the savage, who had not learned the use of the sickly, yellow-looking metal which drove the white man to frenzy—had been a succession of picturesquen and beautiful uplands; that tract between the Campaspe River and the Columbine consisting of well-watered and finely-undulating plains, dotted with clumps of wood, while the view up and down the river was so picturesque, and yet so parlid, that it seemed as though art had judiciously adapted nature to the wants of a

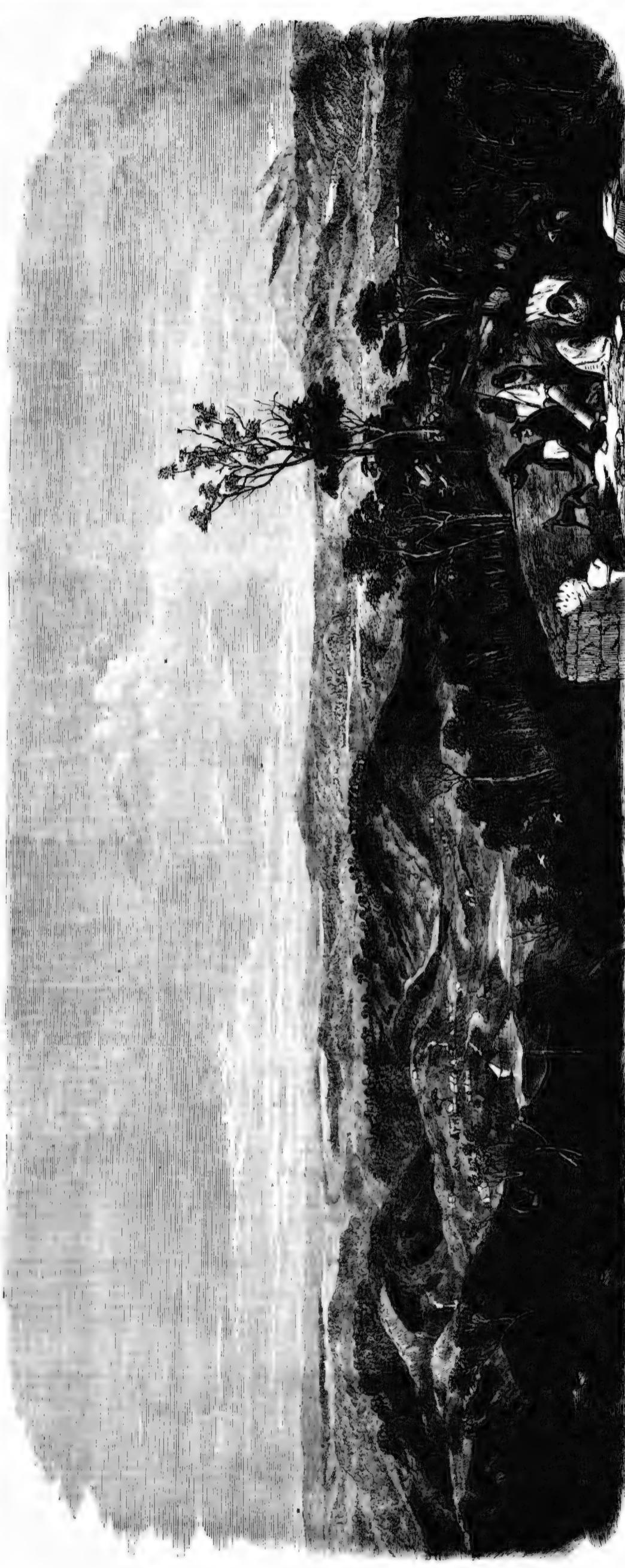
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amongst the earliest of the great gold-fields. Mount Alexander was the most conspicuous, and perhaps the most celebrated. The first discovery of the precious metal at this part of Victoria was made by a bullock-driver who had been employed on a station at no great distance, and who set out on an exploring expedition, hammer in hand, to examine every quartz vein that came in his way, being at last rewarded by finding the object of his search in a ravine not far from the afterwards

MOUNT ALEXANDER, VICTORIA.

For some time past the gold fever has left the inhabitants of Australia, and, though the relapse at first threatened a crisis, the colony has battled through, and, having pretty well recovered, regards gold-digging as one of its industrial occupations, every day showing that it will continue to be a systematised mode of gaining a livelihood, sometimes so fortunate as to secure a competency, and often requiring very assiduous attention from those who follow it before they can rise above the rank of labourers.

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MOUNT ALEXANDER GOLDFIELD, DS. CASTLEMINE, VICTORIA.

individual diggers near the surface to being prosecuted by means of shafts, machinery, and complete "plants" on territory leased by organised companies. For many months past a small number of persons, instigated thereto by some Ballarat miners, have been sinking a shaft in a spot called Collingwood Flat, a populous suburb of Melbourne. Their avowed object was to mine for "a deep lead," confidently believed to be somewhere in the neighbourhood. For a long time "The Collingwood Gold-Mining Company," as they are styled, were deemed little other than credulous fanatics wasting their money on a ridiculous and expensive experiment. They were regarded by the mass of their fellow-citizens much as any similar set of men would be regarded in London were they seriously to begin gold-mining in a back yard in Tottenham court-road. A short time ago, however, these eccentric adventurers came upon gold, and it is said, in paying quantities. The news flew like wildfire through the city and suburbs. At first people were somewhat incredulous; but in a little while the more sceptical seemed satisfied of the fact; and gold-mining is now in its transitional state—from being carried on by The shares, previously unsaleable, at once went to a premium. A

Party of men working together had made £10,000 from holes where they had dug till they came down to the golden earth. The luck of such men drove the unsuccessful almost mad; but the parties of four, six, and eight, many of them, had learned a better lesson, and began to work systematically and in concert till they made a find. This was Mount Alexander ten years ago. Much of this state of things has passed away. Where only tents were seen, towns have sprung up; mining has become a trade, and shafts are even sunk to work by machinery. There are fewer lucky finds, as the whole surface is pried and the country prospected; and "the diggings" have become centres of industry, where men often work very hard for a decent maintenance. We say so, and in this belief have yet, who shall say what fresh discoveries, what fierce associations of fever, may not yet linger round this great gold-seeking business?

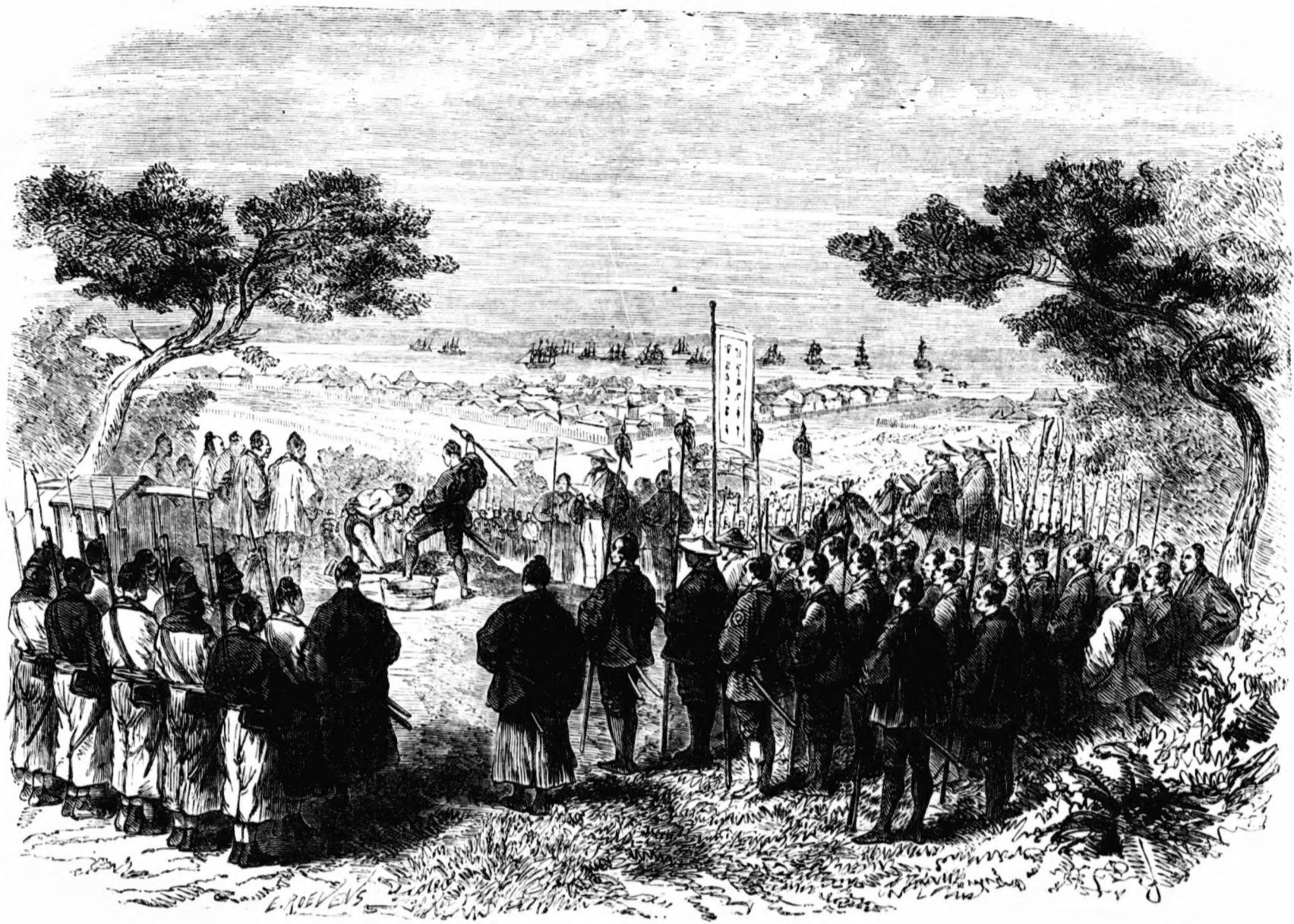
Even within the last few days a report has reached us (to be cautiously received) that Melbourne itself is built over a great auriferous deposit, and

that gold-mining is now in its transitional state—from being carried on by

coming civilisation. Amongst the high hills in the distance, Mount Macedon rose proudly, dark and frowning; and further still, where the country rose gradually towards its slopes, Mount Alexander was just visible, its irregular, sequestered valleys, and woody thickets as yet uninvaded, except by the shepherd or the traveller from some outlying station.

Approaching the mount from the Columbine River, the country rises more abruptly to within about four miles of its base, where a slope between the hills leads over the higher land and into a valley, at the bottom of which is a creek. This is Forest Creek; and here, soon after the discovery of gold, all the face of the place was changed, and what had been a wild solitude became a noisy camp, filling the valley with tents, like a great army.

In fact, the valley itself was torn up by diggers; and in the bed of the creek on the rising ground on each side, and up the lesser valleys leading into it, holes and pits were dug from 1 ft. to 20 ft. deep; so that but for the exertions of the Commissioner, there would have been no solid ground on which to place the tents and allow room to pass from place to place.



EXECUTION OF THE ASSASSINS OF TWO ENGLISH OFFICERS AT YOKOHAMA, JAPAN.

gold-field had come to town, and thousands, including many ladies, made the interesting novelty the object of an afternoon's drive. All at once the company (ludicrous as it may seem) for the first time awoke to the fact that they had little other land than that in which their shaft was sunk, and that, however valuable the mine might prove, it must necessarily run either under private property or

under the streets. Here was at first a startling difficulty. But they have since obtained the permission of the municipality to mine under the streets, and, it is said, will be able to come to terms with private owners of land. Meanwhile, other companies are now preparing to sink other shafts in the same neighbourhood; and a suburban mining district is among the possibilities of the future.

THE EXECUTION FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF TWO ENGLISH OFFICERS IN JAPAN.

LIKE the Chinese and other only externally civilised people, the Japanese learn nothing and forget nothing; so that, whenever we are led to hope that the last difficulty has been settled, and the country is about to be opened to European influences, we



THE WAR IN AMERICA: GENERAL SHERMAN'S TROOPS CROSSING A SWAMP NEAR MCPHERSONVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA.—SEE PAGE 181.

find fresh obstacles and renewed treachery on the part of somebody in power, which necessitates further demands for justice against the native Princes.

By recent news from Yokohama we hear of the murder of two British officers, under similar circumstances to those which have before been connected with the attacks upon Europeans.

A party of six gentlemen, who had started for a five days' excursion for the purpose of sketching and photographing, met the two unfortunate officers, Major Baldwin and Lieutenant Bird, of the 20th Regiment, on the Island of Enosima, and asked them to join their party. This invitation they unfortunately declined, as they wished to see the Daiboots, a large bronze idol, near Kamakura, and intended to return to Yokohama before evening. The first party continued their way, and arrived at Fujisawa, where they learnt that the two officers had been assassinated, a report which they disbelieved, attributing it to some desire of the Japanese to get rid of them. However, they looked well to their arms before they went to sleep, all the party occupying the same room.

In the morning they were visited by a Japanese officer, who said he had been sent down by the Governor of Yokohama to see if they were safe, as two English officers had been attacked and wounded the night before at Kamakura and that one of them was dead. This proved to be poor Lieutenant Bird, who was in reality killed many hours after he had been wounded. It was not known who had committed the deed, and two of the party to whom the communication was made had been sketching there unarmed the night before. The scene of the murder was a most melancholy place, where a few sandhills were blown about by the wind which shook the fronds of blasted pines that grew upon the beach overlooking the volcanic island of Vries in the distance. It appears from an account of the inquest that the two unfortunate gentlemen left Yokohama, on horseback, for an excursion to Kamakura and Daiboots. About half-past ten they arrived at Enosima, which place they left about twelve o'clock, with the intention of proceeding to Daiboots. The same night information from the district authorities was sent in to the Governor of Yokohama that two foreigners had been assaulted at or near Kamakura; that one was dead, but the other was yet alive. This information having been communicated (about two o'clock in the morning of the 22nd) to the foreign Consuls, Dr. Lindau, the Swiss Consul; Mr. von Brandt, the Prussian Consul; and other foreign residents, went out to the place indicated; Lieutenant Woods, with a party of mounted artillery, and Mr. Fletcher, Interpreter to the British Legation, being ordered to proceed hither in all haste. A little after daylight they arrived at the threefold road leading from the Great Temple, Hatchuma, where it divides into three smaller roads, one, leading to Daiboots, to the right, the second straight on to the sea, and the third into the country to the left. Near this spot and between a miserable teahouse and a hut for horses, in two small sheds of mats, propped up by bamboo and disposed on mats laid on the ground, were found, most horribly mutilated, the bodies of the two unfortunate gentlemen, the pistol of one of them—one barrel of which appeared to have been recently discharged—by his side, that of the other yet undrawn from his belt. All the inquiries made by Mr. Fletcher failed to elicit any information. No one knew anything but that there the bodies were, and that one of the deceased, the younger one, who said his name was Bird, had lived several hours after he was attacked.

The bodies of the two Englishmen were brought back by water to Yokohama, where an inquest was held on them, at which the following verdict was returned:—"From the evidence brought before them, the jury have no doubt that this atrocious crime was the act of Japanese swordsmen unknown. The jury further find that this attack must, in all likelihood, have been made on both sides simultaneously, and by a party of five or six ruffians at the very least, but possibly of even greater numbers. The jury are further of opinion that the Japanese evidence read in Court is utterly worthless, and that there must be ample testimony in the possession of the Japanese authorities, or attainable by them, descriptive of the whole circumstances of the tragedy."

The funeral was attended by the Ministers and Consuls of all the Powers which have representatives at Yokohama, and by 150 men from the French frigate Semiramis, in addition to the firing party of 240 men of the 20th Regiment.

In a few days it was announced that two men had been taken prisoners for being concerned in the murder. They had been traced by the officers of justice as far as the Hakoni mountains, where they were captured, but the elder of the two fought with his captors until he was wounded with sword cuts in several places.

These two men, who were friends of the actual murderers, had avowed their intention to kill some foreigners, and had left their province in company with two others, the actual murderers, to whose discovery, it is said, they have given some clue.

The place of execution was a courtyard, in an inclosure surrounded with a palisade, near Yokohama, and here were assembled a number of the merchants and officers of the city who had ridden over on horseback. In the courtyard itself the visitors were waiting for the terrible event, and two oblong holes had been dug in the ground for the reception of the heads of the victims, for whom a straw mat had been placed near the holes in order that they might kneel in a proper position. On one side were a couple of buckets of water and two ladies. After about an hour's delay, during which the Yakuus were walking about and talking to the officers of the Legation, the Judges were heard reading their sentence to the prisoners, who, on its conclusion, gave an unearthly yell and commenced to shuffle their feet so loudly that the Europeans at first thought they had broken loose. The first prisoner's eyes were then blindfolded, and his arms bound with cords, after which he was led in by four men, and placed, kneeling, over one of the holes. While his shoulders were bared by the four attendants, the executioner received a long sword, in a bamboo scabbard, which he eyed with much satisfaction, proceeding to wind a piece of cotton round the hilt, and dipping his hands in water, previous to placing himself in position. The prisoner was held by the four men, but at the same time did not move a muscle; and, after one or two feints, the executioner severed his head from the body by a single blow, the head dropping at once into the hole, where water was thrown upon it. The second prisoner, who had been severely wounded, was carried into the inclosure, and was less stolid than the first, asking the executioner, more than once, whether it was not yet time. His head soon followed that of his companion, however; both were washed and placed in mat-bags; and the ceremony concluded, much to the relief of the European spectators, who had thus been made witnesses of the Tycoon's desire to execute justice.

THE STUFF OF WHICH "SAINTS" ARE MADE.—At the moment when the Holy See is preparing to canonise a new saint, Pierre d'Arbues, the question as to the merits by which that personage distinguished himself is naturally asked. The *Temps*, on that subject, remarks that an answer may be found in the "History of Ferdinand and Isabella," by Prescott. The journal just named sums up the account in these words:—"The inquisition had been established in Arragon about the middle of the fifteenth century; but, the national liberties forming a counterpoise to that institution, there were at first but few victims. In 1484, however, that formidable tribunal was firmly reconstituted for the Arragonese, as it had been previously done for the Castilians. For the diocese of Saragossa two judges were appointed, one was a Dominican, and the other a canon; the latter was Pedro Arboes d'Epila. In spite of the Cortes, Arboes and his colleague entered on their functions. In the months of May and June following they were already celebrating auto da-fé, with all the accompanying horrors. The executions were not only atrocious, but illegal. They had taken place against the will of the country, and without respect for the rights of the Cortes. A conspiracy was formed to avenge those cruelties, and Arboes in vain protected himself with a coat of mail and wore a helmet. He was surprised and killed. Isabella the Catholic and her husband used every effort to find out the murderers. They were all hanged after their right hands had been cut off, with the exception of the traitor who had betrayed the others, and to whom a promise had been made that his life should be spared. As a favour, his hand was not cut off until after he had been hanged. Two hundred individuals, presumed to be accomplices, were burned, and a still larger number died in prison. The nephew of the King was even compelled to perform a public penance. It is that Arboes who is now to be canonised."

OPERA AND MUSICAL MEMORANDA.

MR. GYE'S programme has appeared. It is too much in the usual style cultivated by the directors of the Royal Italian Opera not to displease the more intelligent portion of the public; but, in spite of many errors of taste, and one or two of fact, the programme is substantially good. It announces the re-engagement of all the singers of last year except Tamberlik, Faure, Nantier-Didiée, and Lagrua. In lieu of Tamberlik we are to have Brignoli, from the Italian Opera of Paris, whom we shall be glad, if possible, to salute as Tamberlik's superior. Faure will be replaced by Gassier, late of Her Majesty's Theatre; Nantier-Didiée by Edelsberg, the principal contralto at the Munich Opera; Lagrua, by Isabella Galetti, from the chief theatres of Italy, a vocalist from whom great things are anticipated in the Grisi parts. We may mention, too, that, besides Mdlle. Edelsberg, two other contralti—Mdlle. Honoré, from the Moscow Opera, and Mdlle. de Ahna, from the Berlin Opera—are engaged. "L'Africaine" is to be produced, with Miolan-Carvalho, Lucca, Néri-Baraldi, Graziani, Schmid, Attri, and Wachtel, in the principal characters. "The Marriage of Figaro," too, is promised, with Adelina Patti as Susanna; and "The Magic Flute," with Adelina Patti as Pamina and Carlotta Patti as the Queen of Night. The theatre opens on the 28th, and a most brilliant series of performances may be expected.

MR. SALAMAN is giving a very interesting series of lectures, at the Marylebone Institution, on "The History of the Opera in Italy, England, Germany, and France." The series consists of four lectures, of which three have been delivered. The fourth, on "The Opera in France," will be given next Thursday evening. Mr. Salaman "illustrates" his lectures by means of singing and piano-forte music, without which an historical account of the opera would be no more intelligible to the general public than an historical account of painting without pictorial illustrations. We attended the lecture on "English Opera" last week, and listened to a most lucid account of the introduction of this admirable form of art into England. To us it came direct from Italy, but with many modifications. In Italy the origin of the opera was an attempt to revive in Italian theatres the drama of ancient Greece, which attempt was a part of the great Renaissance movement caused by the taking of Constantinople and the flight of Greek artists to Italy; so that, after all, we are indebted, indirectly, for the existence of Italian, and all other opera to the Turks. In England our first operatic experiments were brought to an end by the Great Rebellion and the establishment of the Cromwellian system, by no means favourable to music. Under Charles the Second's reign our ignominious dependence upon France, and the taste for everything French by which it was accompanied, brought troops of French musicians and one good French composer to this country. Then appeared one of our greatest national composers, Purcell, whose music, according to some good judges, is the best dramatic music of a thoroughly English stamp that exists. "What, however," asks Mr. Salaman, "is English music?" And may we not with our own blend many foreign styles, as in the English language words of Celtic, Saxon, French, Latin, and Greek origin are found mixed together?" This illustration of Mr. Salaman is very amusing. Between the language and the music of a country there is, or ought to be, a very great analogy. It seems to us that when in any given country this analogy exists in a marked manner (as it most certainly does in Italy) then that country may be said to possess a characteristically national style of music. But do we not recognise certain forms of instrumental music, or of vocal and instrumental music combined, as being eminently German? Here the language of the country has nothing to do with the matter. German music suggests the German musician much more than it recalls to us the German language. Indeed, a great deal of German music, even of that which is intended to be sung, is written without any regard to the forms of German poetry. It is pure musical thought; whereas the operatic music of Italy has been suggested by, and takes the form of, Italian words. It is certain that in the seventeenth century England possessed composers whose music was very English indeed, the most remarkable of the number being Henry Purcell and Matthew Locke. At the beginning of the eighteenth century Italian music was re-introduced by the great German composer Handel (who, however, was almost as much an English composer as Napoleon was a French General). After Handel we come again to an admirable English composer, Dr. Arne; then to Shield, Storace, and Michael Kelly; to Sir Henry Bishop, who has a period to himself; to Balfé, Barnett, Loder, Macfarren, Wallace, and the numerous operatic composers of the present day. The examples from the most characteristic English operas of the last two centuries and a half were highly interesting, thanks, in a great measure, to the manner in which they were presented by Miss Eliza Hughes, as vocalist, and Mr. Salaman and Miss Emma Lewis, as pianists.

The world of music has lately been agitated by a discussion on the subject of Dussek's "Invocation Sonata." Who in these latter days first played it in public? who has made it popular with London audiences? who has caused the musical publishers to bring out new editions of the work? are the questions asked; and, to the two last, the only answer that can possibly be given is—Mdlle. Arabella Goddard. Herr Pauer maintains that he introduced the "Invocation Sonata" to the London public, some years ago, at his Historical Concerts. But this seems to have been an affair between Herr Pauer and a certain number of pupils and subscribers. Say, however, that Herr Pauer was dealing with the public properly so called; even then, to introduce a sonata to the public is one thing, to make the public acquainted with it, another. It is only since Mdlle. Arabella Goddard has played the piece in question that its beauties have been understood and appreciated by the public at large. This is a matter, not of opinion, but of fact; and the fact is proved by the applause with which each performance of the sonata (when played by Mdlle. Arabella Goddard) is received, and by the demand for the music experienced now, for the first time, at the music-publishers. The critic of the *Athenaeum*, who can explain most things, cannot make out why the "Invocation Sonata" is now played so often in public. The reason is that it happens to be a favourite piece of Mdlle. Arabella Goddard, and that she plays it to perfection. This, however, is too simple an explanation for the *Athenaeum* critic; and he has therefore invented a new and abstruse one, according to which the public applaud Mdlle. Arabella Goddard's performance of the "Invocation Sonata" in consequence of the inordinate praise lavished upon it by the newspapers. This does not apply to us, for we have neglected the Monday Popular Concerts, where the "Invocation Sonata" has been so much applauded, for some time past. Neither does it apply to the *Athenaeum*, whose great rule in noticing the Monday Popular Concerts has always been to say that the kind of music played there can be played just as well elsewhere, and to abstain from praising Mdlle. Arabella Goddard. As for the *Times*, for the last five or six years it has made a point of never passing any opinion whatever on Mdlle. Arabella Goddard's playing. The only journal which has ever found fault with it is the *Athenaeum*. That may have done Mdlle. Goddard some good, but not to the extent of prejudicing audiences of two thousand persons in her favour. Let us be content with simple reasons when simple ones are sufficient; and, in spite of the silence of the *Times* and the perversity of the *Athenaeum*, let us recognise the discernment and good taste of our English audiences, who are quite capable of telling good piano-forte-playing from bad, and who can appreciate the best kind of music when the best pianists execute it.

TWENTY SHILLINGS' WORTH OF PRAYERS.—Brother Ignatius has given notice that a forty hours' prayer will be commenced at the Norwich monastery on the 29th inst. The prayer is to be made with perpetual adoration of the blessed sacrament, and "the sacred host will be taken from the tabernacle and enthroned upon the altar." The forty hours' prayer and adoration will be conducted in silence, a certain number taking their turn before the altar, who are to succeed one another. The public will be admitted, and any one subscribing £1 for the new church which the brethren of the English Order of St. Benedict propose to erect in Norwich will be prayed for during the forty hours.

FINE ARTS.

M. FLATOU'S COLLECTION OF MODERN PICTURES.

A VISIT to the gallery in the Haymarket will, we venture to think, be not unpleasant to those real lovers of art who remember affectionately pictures which they have seen and liked in the exhibitions, and who therefore will rejoice at an opportunity of meeting with their old favourites again. But, in addition to these familiar friends, we meet with pictures that it has not been our fortune to see before—some which are entirely new to us, and some of which we have heard by tradition.

MR. FAED'S "SUNDAY IN THE BACKWOODS" (2) is one of the pictures we cannot meet with too often. Though in parts injured by a dirtiness of colouring which the artist is now learning to conquer, it abounds with a homely pathos which must appeal to every heart. A masterly little sketch, entitled "Jeanie Deans" (106) is another pleasing instance of Mr. Faed's skill. His "Lady of Shalott" (79) is not so successful. It wants the romantic element which a worse painter than Mr. Faed would have found it easy to put in. His sentiment is too truthful for such idealistic subjects.

His brother, Mr. J. Faed, is an exhibitor here. In addition to his "Roland Graeme and Catherine Seaton" (12), of which we had occasion to speak in terms of praise in our notice of the Royal Academy last year, we see a finely finished allegory called "Reason and Faith" (20), a carefully thought-out composition, which will repay study.

MR. HOOK'S "SEA AIR" (11) is one of those magical views of ocean for which that artist has obtained so deservedly high a reputation. One sniffs the brine as one looks at it, and the sea seems positively to heave, and the foam to twinkle, so perfect is the illusion. "The Bramble in the Way" (47) is another gem by the same hand.

There is also a very clever picture by Mr. Pettie (the winner of the first prize at Mr. Wallis's exhibition this year) which we do not remember to have seen, though it ought to have attracted attention if it had ever been shown. It is called "The Lesson" (50), and represents a red-moustached old trooper giving the young "son of the house" a few useful hints on the science of carte and tierce. The lad's eager, boyish face, and the grace, under restraint, of his position are excellently painted. The colouring is, like that in "The Challenge"—which, by-the-way, is, we fancy, founded on a passage in "Peveril of the Peak"—evidently influenced by the French school. We think an apt quotation might be found for this picture in "The Lay of the Last Minstrel."

One or two pictures by the late A. Solomon recall to us the memory of an artist who was every day drawing nearer the fulfilment of the great promise his pictures early displayed.

MR. ARCHER'S two companion pictures of children, "as the little lady stood" respectively "to Velasquez" and "to Gainsborough," form a charming pair. It is difficult to say which is best.

MR. BOUGHTON is an artist who is rapidly rising into notice. His "Returning from Mass" (72), "Interminable Story" (102), and "Finishing Touch" (104), all deserve laudatory mention.

"Playing at Doctors" (110), by Mr. C. Hunt; "Dolly's Dinner" (124), by Mr. Gale; "The Price of the Pig" (43), by Mr. Erskine Nicol; and Mr. Marcus Stone's "Thames Lilies" (29), may be ranked among some of the best pictures on the walls.

MR. CROWE'S "SWIFT" (18) we were compelled to object to when it was shown at the Royal Academy last year. His "Garrick and his Wife" (64) we hope is a very early work, for it possesses many faults and small promise.

MR. COOPER is amply represented by cattle-pieces in his usual manner, and Mr. Lee's canvases are as cold and crude as ever. Mr. Creswick has very many paintings on the walls, which, we need hardly say, are, with few exceptions, very fine indeed. Mr. Linell and Mr. Linell junior, Mr. Cooke and Mr. Downard have specimens of their several styles here, which are of the usual excellence.

MR. BRANWHITE'S "ANCIENT GARDEN" (39) is marked, over and above its artistic excellence, by a poetry and tenderness which make it a picture to be remembered. In Mr. Barber's "Reading the Scriptures" (68) there is one really excellent point—the expression of the child; and the same may be said of Mr. Pickersgill's otherwise unsatisfactory painting, "Endeavouring to Please" (113).

SIR EDWIN LANDSEER is not unrepresented; but the specimens of his work are not the best that could be selected. "Windsor Park" (1) is not so truthful as some of Sir Elwin's other pictures; and his "No Escape" (49), if it be his at all, must be an exceedingly early attempt.

One of the most earnest pictures in the gallery is Mr. GOOD'S "TWO OLD SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT AT MINDEN" (108). We shall look for Mr. Good's name elsewhere, confessing candidly that we do not remember to have met with it before—but, at the same time, wondering that we have not, if he always paints in this style.

SPECIMENS of older artists, of Collins, Mulready, Fielding, Leslie, Nasmyth, Morland, and Etty, are also exhibited, as well as Mr. FRITH'S "COMING OF AGE IN THE OLDER TIME" (4), a picture which has, in our opinion, earned a far wider fame than it merits.

WE MUST NOT OMIT BRIEF MENTION OF A CAPITAL "RAINBOW AT SEA" (41), BY MR. DAWSON, WHOSE PICTURE IN THE BRITISH INSTITUTION HAS ATTRACTED SO MUCH ATTENTION.

BENEVOLENCE.—A lady has forwarded, through Sir W. G. Armstrong, F.R.S., £600 to the National Life-boat Institution, for the purpose of completely renovating the Holy Island (Northumberland) life-boat station. Miss S. Robertson, of Lowndes square, has also sent to the institution, through Mr. Stephen Cave, M.P., £300, to place a new life-boat at Shoreham, on the Sussex coast; and Mrs. Anstice, of Tynemouth, Northumberland, has forwarded to the institution £400, through Mr. H. S. Stephenson, for the purpose of replacing the life-boat and transporting-carriage at North Sunderland. The new life-boat is to be named after the late Mr. Joseph Anstice. The Rev. J. Malcolmson, of Ratcliff, has also transmitted to the society £5, in farthings, being the savings of a sailor's widow in aid of the life-boat cause.

WAGES OF THE POST OFFICE EMPLOYEES.—THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL HAS MADE AN ATTEMPT TO SETTLE THE LONG AND ANGRILY CONTESTED DISPUTE WITH THE MEN OF THE LONDON POST OFFICE IN THE MATTER OF THEIR WAGES. THE HIGHEST RATE OF WAGES TO BE ALLOWED TO LETTER-SORTERS IS 50s. A WEEK; THE LOWEST, 23s. THE HIGHEST TO STAMPERS, 30s.; THE LOWEST, 21s. THE HIGHEST TO CARRIERS, 30s.; THE LOWEST, 20s.; WHILE THE SUPPLEMENTARY LETTER-CARRIERS ARE TO HAVE 18s. A WEEK. THE MEN ARE REMINDED THAT, IN ADDITION, THEY HAVE PENSIONS, MEDICAL ADVICE, MEDICINES GRATIS, A FORTNIGHT'S HOLIDAY WITHOUT DEDUCTION FROM THEIR WAGES; AND IF THEY ARE TEMPORARILY LAID ASIDE BY SICKNESS THEY HAVE TWO THIRDS OF THEIR ALLOWANCES. IN ADDITION, THE LETTER-CARRIERS HAVE THEIR UNIFORM, CLOTHING, AND ARE PERMITTED TO TAKE CHRISTMAS GRATUITIES.

MR. CARLYLE'S "FREDERICK THE GREAT." THE CONCLUDING VOLUMES OF "THE HISTORY OF FREDERICK THE GREAT," BY MR. THOMAS CARLYLE, WERE ISSUED ON TUESDAY.

THE WORK CLOSES WITH THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH:—"I DEDICATE IT TO MYSELF AS HITHERTO THE LAST OF THE KINGS. WHEN THE NEXT WILL BE IS A VERY LONG QUESTION. BUT IT SEEMS TO ME AS IF NATIONS, PROBABLY ALL NATIONS, BY-AND-BY, IN THEIR DESPAIR—BLINDED, SWALLOWED LIKE JONAH, IN SUCH A WHALE'S BELLY OF THINGS BRUTISH, WAST, ABOMINABLE (FOR IS NOT ANARCHY, AS THE RULE OF WHAT IS BASED OVER WHAT IS NOBLE?)—AS IF THE NATION'S MISERY WORTH COMPLAINING OF, AND, IN FACT, THE ABOMINATION OF ABOMINATIONS, SPRINGING FROM AND PRODUCING ALL OTHERS WHATSOEVER?)—AS IF THE NATION'S UNIVERSALITY, AND ENGLAND TOO, IF IT HOLD ON, MAY MORE AND MORE BETHINK THEMSELVES OF SUCH A MAN AND HIS FUNCTION AND PERFORMANCE WITH FEELINGS FAR OTHER THAN ARE POSSIBLE AT PRESENT. MEANWHILE, ALL I HAD TO SAY OF HIM IS FINISHED. THAT, TOO, IT SEEMS, WAS A BIT OF WORK APPOINTED TO BE DONE. ADIEU, GOOD READERS; BAD ALSO, ADIEU."

METROPOLITAN POLICE.—THE NUMBER OF THIS FORCE, OFFICERS AND MEN, ON THE 1ST OF JANUARY, 1863, WAS 7191, A DECREASE OF 136 AS COMPARED WITH THE NUMBER ON THE 1ST OF JANUARY, 1862. THE COST OF THE FORCE, HOWEVER, IN THE YEAR 1862—£260,864—WAS RATHER LARGER THAN IN 1863. THE NUMBER OF CONSTABLES ON LOWEST SALARY, 19s. A WEEK, WAS 4289 AT THE END OF 1862, BUT ONLY 1790 AT THE END OF 1863. THE POLICE RATE WAS 8d. IN THE POUND, THE TREASURY CONTRIBUTING 2d. AND THE PARISH'S 6d.; THE AMOUNT RECEIVED FROM THE PARISHES IN RESPECT OF THE RATES OF THE YEAR WAS £354,627, THE RATE BEING COMPUTED UPON A RENTAL OF £14,18,098. A LARGE SUM WAS ALSO PAID BY THE ADMIRALTY, THE WAR OFFICE, AND VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS FOR THE SERVICES OF THE POLICE IN THE DOCKYARDS, AT MILITARY STATIONS, AND AT PUBLIC OFFICES. CHARGES APPEAR IN THE ACCOUNTS FOR 1864 FOR THE FUNERAL EXPENSES OF FIFTY-FOUR CONSTABLES. 1864 MEN WERE ON THE SUPERANNUATION LIST OF THE YEAR. THE EXPENDITURE FOR THE SERVICE OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE COURTS IN 1863 AMOUNTED TO £63,214, OF WHICH SUM £12,694 WAS OBTAINED FROM FINEST AND PENALTIES IMPOSED AT THE POLICE COURTS, AND THE RESIDUE CAME FROM THE PUBLIC PURSE.

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